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(54) **Use of biphosphonates for the manufacture of a medicament for blocking neoplastic transformation of cells induced by ras oncogenes.**

(57) A method is provided by blocking or preventing the prenylation of CAAX box containing proteins including ras oncogene products thereby preventing and/or treating ras-related tumors which includes the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor which is a bisphosphonate or analog thereof.

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The present invention relates to a method for treating and/or preventing tumors by blocking the prenylation of CAAX box containing proteins, including ras oncogene products, by administering a therapeutic amount of a protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor which is a bisphosphonate or analog thereof. Other aspects of the invention are set forth in the claims.

The products of ras genes comprise a family of guanine nucleotide binding proteins that are involved in the control of eukaryotic cell proliferation. Specific point mutations result in ras oncoproteins which have the ability to neoplasticly transform mammalian cells, and activated ras genes have been observed in at least 10% of all human tumors. Their incidence in certain malignancies, such as in colorectal and pancreatic cancers, is far greater.

Genetic studies first established that ras proteins, referred to as ras p21, must be formed by post-translational modification of a precursor protein with a defined carboxy-terminal structure, in order to exert their biological function. This structure, known as the CAAX box, is formed of a conserved cysteine residue located four amino acid-residues from the carboxy terminus, which in the case of ras is position 186 (except in the K-ras4B p21 protein, in which cysteine is located at position 185), followed by two aliphatic amino acids and any carboxy-terminal amino acid residue. Mutations affecting the basic CAAX box structure of oncogenic ras p21 proteins completely abolish their transforming activity, presumably by impeding their interaction with the inner side of the plasma membrane. Such interaction requires a series of post-translational modifications within the CAAX box motif which include (a) farnesylation of the cys residue of the CAAX box; (b) cleavage of the three carboxy-terminal amino acid residues; and (c) methylation of the free carboxyl group generated in the resulting carboxy-terminal farnesyl-cysteine residue. The interaction of these farnesylated ras p21 proteins with cellular membranes in some cases is further strengthened by palmitoylation of neighboring upstream cysteine residues. See Hancock, et al, June 30, 1989, Cell 57:1167-1177; and Casey, et al, November 1989, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 86:8323-8327.

Recent studies have suggested that the donor of the farnesyl residue present in ras p21 proteins is farnesyl pyrophosphate (FPP), a precursor in the biosynthesis of cholesterol. The transfer of the farnesyl group from FPP, the donor molecule, to ras proteins is mediated by the enzyme, protein-farnesyl transferase (FT).

Treatment of S. cerevisiae cells or Xenopus oocytes with inhibitors of HMG-CoA reductase, the enzyme responsible for the synthesis of mevalonic acid, the precursor of isoprenoid compounds, blocks the function of ras proteins in these cells. These results have raised the possibility of using inhibitors of cholesterol biosynthesis, that is, HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, to block neoplastic transformation induced by ras oncogenes. See, Schafer, et al, July 28, 1989, Science 245:379-385; and Goldstein and Brown, February 1, 1990, Nature 343:425-430.

Rine and Kim, "A Role for Isoprenoid Lipids in the Localization and Function of an Oncoprotein," The New Biologist, Vol. 2, No. 3 (March), 1990: pp 219-236, disclose at pages 222-223 that "lovastatin [also known as Mevacor], compactin, and related drugs that have been developed for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia act by inhibiting 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A reductase (HMG-CoA reductase), the enzyme that catalyzes the rate-limiting step in the synthesis of cholesterol and all other polyisoprenoids.... The drugs were tested in the Xenopus oocyte assay... for their ability to pharmacologically suppress activated H-Ras^{val12}.... These experiments pinpointed farnesyl pyrophosphate as the likely donor molecule for farnesylation of Ras protein, and suggested a rationale for a novel pharmacological route to block the action of this important human oncoprotein."

"Earlier work had already provided evidence that inhibition of isoprenoid synthesis by use of inhibitors of 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl (HMG)-CoA reductase could slow the growth of tumors in animals. In particular, continuous, high levels of lovastatin caused substantial growth inhibition of a mouse neuroblastoma.... Although the oncogene(s) responsible for this tumor has not yet been identified and the dosage required to suppress the tumor was rather high, this study does support the notion that protein prenyl transferase(s) responsible for Ras modification might serve as useful targets for chemotherapy...."

European patent application No. 91107390.6, published as EP-A-456,180 on 13th November 1991, discloses protein-farnesyl transferase (FT) assays for identifying compounds that block the farnesylation of ras oncogene products. The Barbacid et al invention is based, in part, on the discovery and identification of the FT enzyme which catalyzes the transfer of the farnesyl group from the donor, farnesyl pyrophosphate (FPP), to the ras p21 Cys^{186} residue. Farnesylation of ras proteins is required for their attachment to the inner cell membrane and biological activity. Farnesylation of ras oncogene products is required for ras mediated transforming activity. Because the assays of the Barbacid et al invention are designed to target a step subsequent to the synthesis of FPP (in the cholesterol chain), they allow for the identification of compounds that interfere with farnesylation of the ras oncogene products and inhibit their transforming activity, yet do not interfere with the synthesis of FPP, a precursor in the synthesis of cholesterol, ubiquinones, dolichols and Haem A. Therefore, FT inhibitory compounds that do not disrupt important cellular pathways which require FPP may be iden-

tified using the Barbacid et al assay.

Squalene synthetase is a microsomal enzyme which catalyzes the reductive dimerization of two molecules of farnesyl pyrophosphate (FPP) in the presence of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (reduced form) (NADPH) to form squalene (Poulter, C. D.; Rilling, H. C., in "Biosynthesis of Isoprenoid Compounds," Vol. I, Chapter 8, pp. 413-441, J. Wiley and Sons, 1981, and references therein). This enzyme is the first committed step of the de novo cholesterol biosynthetic pathway.

Squalene synthetase inhibitors which block the action of squalene synthetase (after the formation of farnesyl pyrophosphate) are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,871,721 and 5,025,003,European patent application No. 89115400.7 (EP-A-356,866), European patent application No. 90113700.0 (EP-A-409,181), and European patent application No. 92108074.3.

Preferred aspects of the invention will now be described.

In accordance with the present invention, it has been found that post-translational modification of CAAX box containing proteins may be inhibited by administering a protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor which inhibits the transfer of the prenyl group [such as farnesyl (in the case of ras oncogene products), geranyl or geranylgeranyl] to the cysteine of the CAAX box by the protein-prenyl transferase enzyme. The protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor will block the protein-prenyl transferase enzyme from catalyzing the transfer of the prenyl group (for example, farnesyl, geranyl or geranylgeranyl) from the prenyl pyrophosphate to the cys residue of the CAAX box, such as the ras p21 cys, or to the CAAX box cysteine of other CAAX box containing proteins. In the case of ras p21 oncogene products, inasmuch as the cys will not be farnesylated it cannot effect interaction of the ras protein with the membrane so that neoplastic transformation of the cell will be prevented. In this manner protein-prenyl transferase inhibitors prevent neoplastic transformation of the cell, thereby acting as an anti-cancer agent for the treatment of and/or prevention of ras-related tumors.

Examples of CAAX box containing proteins which have been demonstrated or are believed to undergo prenylation include, but are not limited to, nuclear lamins, α or γ subunits of heterotrimeric G-proteins, γ-subunits of retinal transducin, G25K and K-rev p21, and protein families including rho, rap, rac, ral, and rab.

Thus, the present invention resides in a method for blocking or preventing the prenylation of CAAX box containing proteins such as ras oncogene products, and thereby inhibit disease promoting effects of the CAAX box containing protein or more specifically prevent and/or treat ras-related tumors, by administering to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic amount of a protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor.

The protein-prenyl transferase inhibitors, unlike HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, will interfere with prenylation of the ras oncogene products and inhibit their transforming activity, yet may or may not interfere with the synthesis of FPP, a precursor in the synthesis of ubiquinones, dolichols and Haem A.

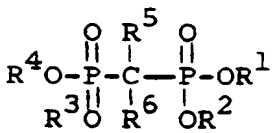
The activity of the protein-prenyl transferase inhibitors in blocking the protein-prenyl (e.g. farnesyl, geranyl or geranylgeranyl) transferase from catalyzing the transfer of the prenyl group (e.g. farnesyl, geranyl or geranylgeranyl) from the prenyl pyrophosphate to the cys residue of the CAAX box may be assayed by the procedure described in U.S. application Serial No. 520,570 filed May 8, 1990, by Barbacid et al, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

The bisphosphonate compounds disclosed in European patent application No. 92108073.5 include a methylene bridge between the phosphonate moities and includes at least one lipophilic group attached to the methlene bridge.

As will be seen hereinafter, the terms "bisphosphonic," "diphosphonic," "bisphosphonates" and "diphosphonates" are used interchangeably.

The term "lipophilic group" refers to a group which preferably contains at least six carbons (more preferably greater than 10) and preferably less than 2 polar substituents bearing OH, NH or C=O functions.

The bisphosphonates disclosed in Application No. 92108073.5 have the structure

I 

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and are H, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, ammonium, alkali metal or a prodrug ester, preferably no more than one of R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is alkyl, wherein at least one of R^5 and R^6 is a hydrocarbyl group having at least 6 carbons (such as alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, arylalkenyl); heterocyclic (such as succinimdyl, pyridyl, quinalyl, morpholino, furanyl, indolyl, picolinyl, thiophene, imidazole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiazole, pyridine, 1,2,3-triazole, 1,2,4-triazole, benzimidazole, tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrrolidino, piperidino, 5-membered heteroarylmethyl containing 2 to 4 N atoms or 1-

2 N atoms plus an O or S atom); heterobycyclicalkyl (wherein heterocyclic is as defined above such as 1-(decahydroquinolin-3-yl)methane); amino; alkylamino; dialkylamino; arylalkylaminoalkyl; ethylcarbonyloxymethylamino; cycloalkyl(alkyl)amino; alkenylamino, cycloalkylamino, aminocycloalkyl; aminocycloalkylalkyl; N-hydroxy-N-ethylamino; acetylamino; aminoalkyloxyalkyl; (benzo- or cyclohexeno-fused) 5 membered heteroaryl containing 2-4 N atoms or 1-2 Natoms plus an O or S atom; R^8-X-$(CH_2)_a$- (wherein R^8 is H, alkyl, or a nitrogen containing 6-membered aromatic ring such as pyridyl, indanyl, hexahydroindanyl or picolyl; X is O, NH or a single bond and a is 0 to 7);

$$R^9\text{-}(OCHR^{10}CH_2)_bOCH\text{-}\underset{R^{11}}{|}$$

(wherein R^9 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, phenylalkyl or naphtylalkyl),

$$\underset{R^{11}}{|}\text{-CH-COOMetal} \quad \text{or} \quad \underset{R^{11}}{\overset{H}{|}}\text{-C-C}(PO_3H_2)(OH)$$

(wherein R^{10} and and R^{11} are the same or different and are H or methyl, b is 1 to 20));

$$R^{12}\text{-}\underset{HO}{\underset{|}{CH}}\text{-}(CH_2)_c\text{-}$$

(wherein R^{12} is H, phenyl or phenyl substituted with halogen, alkyl or hydroxy and c is 0 to 9);

$$R^{13}\text{-}\overset{O}{\overset{||}{C}}\text{-CH=C-}$$

(wherein R^{13} is tert-alkyl ($CR^{14}R^{15}R^{16}$ wherein R^{14} and R^{15} are independently C_1-C_3 alkyl and R^{16} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl), cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, or substituted cycloalkyl, substituted aryl or substituted heteroaryl wherein the substituent is halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, alkoxy or dialkylamino);

4-Cl-C_6H_5-S-CH_2; aryloxy;

R^{17}-$(QCH_2CH_2)_dO$- (wherein R^{17} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl, or each of the above R^{17} groups optionally substituted with C_1-C_4 alkyl, amino, alkylamino, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, phenoxy, mercapto, alkylthio, phenylthio, halogen or trifluoromethyl, Q is O or S and d is 0, 1 or 2);

$$R^{18}\text{-}\overset{(O)_h}{\overset{||}{S}}(CH_2)_e\text{-}$$

(wherein e is 0 to 10, h is 0, 1 or 2, R^{18} is H, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkyl, each optionally substituted with OH, SH, halogen, alkoxycarbonyl or NZ_1Z_2, phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, lower alkyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxyl, CO_2alkyl, -$CONZ_1Z_2$, -$CSNZ_1Z_2$, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic radical containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms, which are N or S, which may or may not be fused to a benzene ring, Z_1 and Z_2 are independently H or lower alkyl);

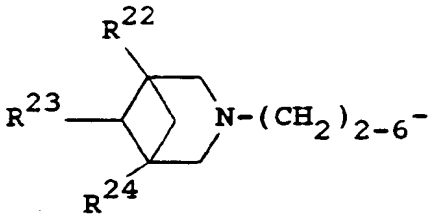
thiol; phenylthio; chlorophenylthio; 4-thiomorpholinyl;

$$Ar\text{-}Y\text{-}\overset{O}{\overset{||}{C}}\text{-}CH_2$$

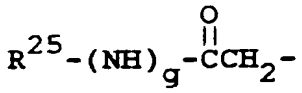
(wherein Ar is aryl, pyrrolyl or aryl optionally substituted with C_1-C_4alkyl, alkoxy, halo (F, Cl), naphthyl, biphenyl or thienyl and Y is NH or a single bond);

$R^{19}SCH_2$- (wherein R^{19} is alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl);

A-$(CH_2)_r$-NH- (wherein A is C_5-C_8 cycloalkenyl, bicycloheptyl, bicycloheptenyl, saturated C_4-C_7 heterocycle containing O,S,SO or SO_2);



(wherein R^{22} is H, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, R^{23} is H, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, halo, carboxyl, R^{24} is H, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, alkoxy);

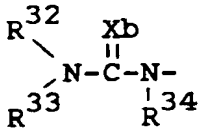


(wherein R^{25} is (alkyl-substituted)pyrrolyl or phenyl and g is 0 or 1);

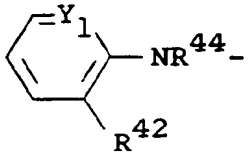
aromatic-substituted mono- or biazacyclylalkyl (alkyl group bonds with the N in the heterocycle) (such as 3-(4-phenylpiperidino)propyl);

R^{31}-Ax-CO-CH_2-

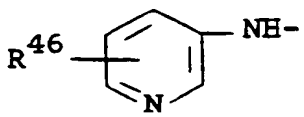
(wherein Ax is phenyl, naphthyl, mono- or bicyclic-N-containing heterocycle and R^{31} is H, halo, lower alkyl or lower alkoxy);



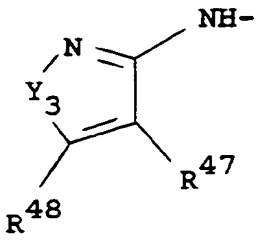
(wherein R^{32} is aryl, aralkyl, alkyl, R^{33} is H or aryl, Xb is O or S, and R^{34} is H or alkyl);



(wherein R^{42} is H, alkyl or halo, Y_1 is N, NO, or $NR^{43}Y_2$ wherein R^{43} is alkyl and Y_2 is halo; and R^{44} is H or aliphatic acyl);



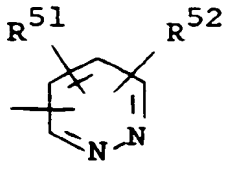
(wherein R^{46} is H, halo or alkyl);

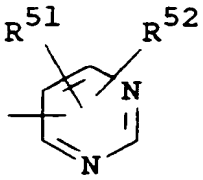


(wherein Y_3 is O or NH, R^{47} is H, alkyl or halo, and R^{48} is H or alkyl);

R^{50} -NH-

(wherein R^{50} is





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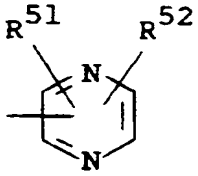
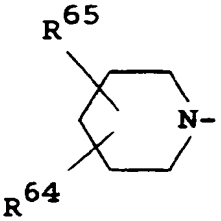
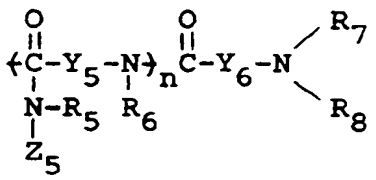


wherein R^{51} and R^{52} are H, halo, alkyl or hydroxy);



(wherein R^{64} is alkyl and R^{65} is H or alkyl;

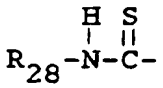
wherein Het is a heteroaromatic 5-membered ring with 2 or 3 heteroatoms, optionally partially hydrogenated and optionally substituted by one or more alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, halo or amino, with 2 adjacent alkyl optionally together forming a ring (Het cannot be pyrazole), and Y_2 is H or lower alkyl);



(wherein Y_4 is H or OH, R_5-R_8 are independently H or lower alkyl, whereby R_7 and Y_6 or R_6 and Y_5 or R_5 and Z_5, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 5- or 6-membered ring, Y_6 and Y_5 which can be the same or different are C_1-C_6 alkylene chains optionally substituted by aromatic or heteroaromatic radicals, Z_5 is C_1 to C_6 alkylene which can include heteroatoms and optionally substituted by aromatic or heteroaromatic, n is 0, 1 or 2;

$$R_{27}\text{-}Z_9\text{-}$$

(wherein R_{27} is aryl or heterocyclyl both optionally substituted by one or more of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, halo(lower)alkyl, acyl, acylamino or halo, or R_{27} is lower alkyl substituted by heterocyclyl which is optionally substituted by acyl); R_{27}-Z_9 is R_{27}-NHC(=X_9), R_{27}-C(=O)NH-, R_{27}-SO_2-NH- (wherein X_9 is O or S);



(wherein R_{28} is phenyl, pyridyl or quinolyl substituted by lower alkylsulphonylamino, halo-lower alkylsulphonylamino, arylsulphonylamino and mono- or di-lower alkylamino);

$$R_{29}\text{-CO-}[\text{-}R_{30}(CH_2)_oCO\text{-}]_p\text{-NH-}$$

(wherein R_{29}-CO- is a residue of a pharmaceutically active compound R_{29}-COOH, wherein R_{29} is an anti-inflamatory agent, or antioncotic agent or hormone ,

R_{30} is -NH- or -O-

p is 0 or 1;

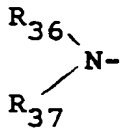
o is 1-10);

R_{33}-$(CH_2)_q$-

(wherein R_{33} is an N-bonded azabicycloalkyl group with 3 to 8-membered rings and q is 2 to 4);

$$R_{34}\text{-}(CH_2)_r\text{-}$$

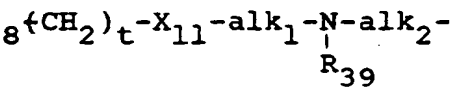
(wherein R_{34} is an N-bonded, aryl-substituted mono- or diazacycloaliphatic group);



(wherein R_{36} is 5 membered heteroaryl with 2-4 N or with 1-2 N plus an O or S atom, optionally fused to a benzo or cyclohexeno ring;

R_{36} can be C substituted by lower alkyl, phenyl (optionally substituted by lower alkyl, alkoxy and/or halo), lower alkoxy, OH, di(lower alkyl)amino, lower alkylthio and/or halo, and/or N substituted by lower alkyl or phenyl (lower) alkyl (optionally substituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and/or halo);

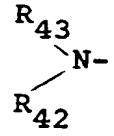
R_{37} is H or lower alkyl; provided R_{37} is not H if R_{36} is optionally substituted alkyl and/or halo substituted 3-pyrazolyl or 3-isoxazolyl);



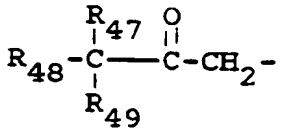
(wherein R_{38} is aromatic residue;

t is 0-3;

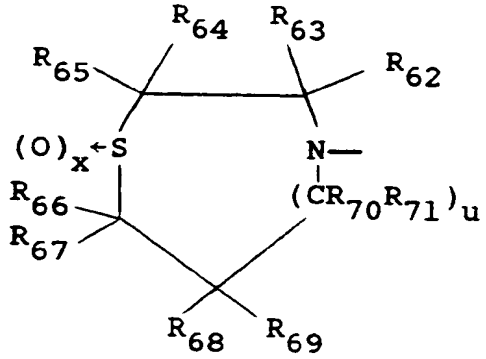
X_{11} is 0 S (optionally oxidized) or imino (optionally substituted by aliphatic group);
alk_1 and alk_2 are divalent aliphatic groups; R_{39} is H or monovalent aliphatic group);



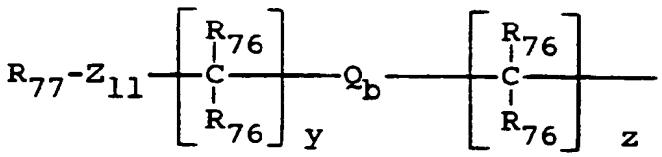
(wherein R_{42} and R_{43} are hydrogen, alkyl having one to 22 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having five to six carbon atoms, phenyl alkylphenyl having seven to 18 carbon atoms, phenylalkyl having seven to 18 carbon atoms and together with the nitrogen atom, piperidino, pyrrolidino and morpholino);



(wherein R_{47} is optionally branched C_1-C_8alkyl,
R_{48} and R_{49} are each methyl or ethyl, and
M is H or a cation of a water-soluble base);

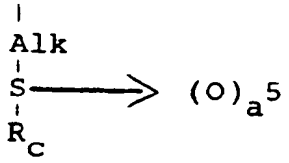


(wherein R_{62}-R_{71} is H, straight, branched or alicyclic 1-10C hydrocarbyl, aryl or aryl-(1-4C)alkyl;
x is 0 or 1;
u is 0, 1 or 2;
or R_{62} and R_{64} may complete a 5- to 7-membered saturated aliphatic ring optionally substituted by 1 or more alkyl groups);



(wherein Z_{11} is an N-containing 6-membered ring heterocycle moiety selected from piperidinyl, diazinyl or triazinyl;
Q_b is a covalent bond, O, S or NR_{76};
y, z, and y + z are integers of 0-10;
R_{76} is H, or C_1-C_3alkyl;
R_{77} is one or more substituted selected from H, halogen, 1-3C alkyl, unsubstituted amino and its amide derived from a 1-3C carboxylic acid, mono(1-3C alkyl) amino and its amide derived from a 1-3C carboxylic acid,

di(1-3C alkyl)amino, tri(1-3C alkyl) ammonium, hydroxy or its ester derived from a 1-3C carboxylic acid, ether having 1-3C, CO_2H and its salts and esters derived from 1-3C alcohols, its amide optionally substituted with one or two 1-3C alkyl groups, and NO_2);



(wherein R_c represents:

C_1-C_6 alkyl group,

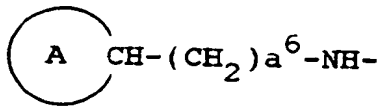
C_5-C_7 cycloalkyl group,

phenyl group optionally monosubstituted or polysubstituted by a halogen, a C_1-C_6 alkyl group or a trifluoromethyl group, or

5-membered or 6-membered heterocycle containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen and sulfur,

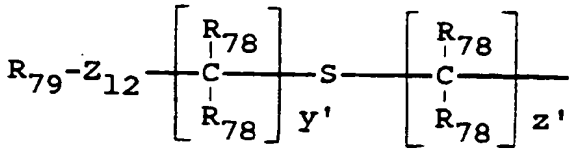
Alk denoted a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkylene group,

a^5 represents 0 or the integer 1 or 2);



(wherein a^6 is 0 to 4 and

Ring A is 5-8C cycloalkenyl, bicycloheptyl, bicycloheptenyl or 4-7C saturated heterocyclyl containing O, S, SO or SO_2);



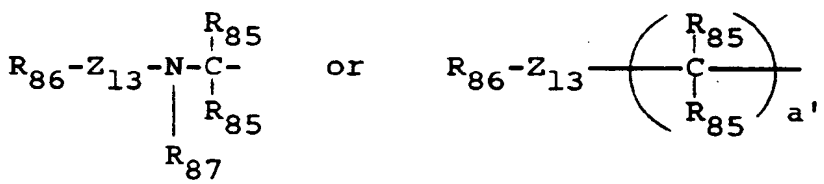
(wherein Z_{12} is a 6-membered aromatic ring containing ≧ 1 N atom(s); where:

the ring is optionally substituted by (optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated) 1-6C alkyl, (optionally substituted) aryl, (optionally substituted) benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, $CONH_2$, (optionally substituted) NH_2 and/or carboxylate, such as pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine ring;

R_{78} is H or (optionally substituted, optionally unsubstituted) 1-4C alkyl;

R_{79} is H, (optionally substituted, optionally unsubstituted) 1-6C alkyl, (optionally substituted) aryl, (optionally substituted) benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, $CONH_2$, (optionally substituted) amino or carboxylate,

y' + z' is 0 to 5);



(wherein Z_{13} is a pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine ring, optionally substituted by optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, oxo, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted NH_2 or carboxylate;

R_{86} is H or optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl;

R_{86} is one or more of H, optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, oxo, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted NH_2 or carboxylate;

R_{87} is H, optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl or acyl;

a' is 1-5);

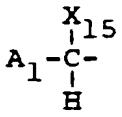
(wherein Z_{15} is a 6 membered aromatic ring containing one or more N atoms such as pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine, which ring may be substituted with one or more optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted amino or carboxylate);

R_{91} is H or optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl;

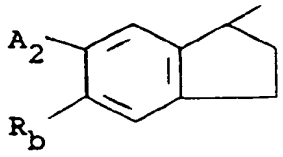
R_{92} is H or one or more substituents selected from optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted amino or carboxylate;

R_{93} is H, optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl or acyl;

a^2 is 1 to 5);



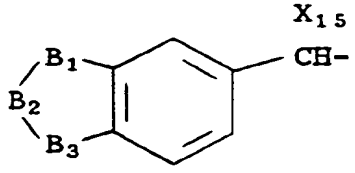
(wherein X_{15} is hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, and A_1 is phenyl substituted in the para-position by isobutyl, cyclohexyl, alkoxy, or 1-pyrrolinyl and, optionally substituted additionally in the meta-position by fluorine or chlorine, or phenyl substituted in the meta-position by benzoyl or phenoxy, or phenyl substituted in the ortho-position by 2,4-dichlorophenoxy or 2,6-dichlorophenylamino);



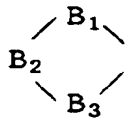
(wherein

R_b is cyclohexyl or cyclophenylmethyl; and

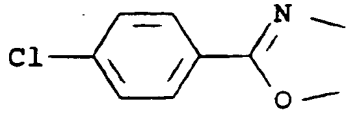
A_2 is hydrogen or chlorine);

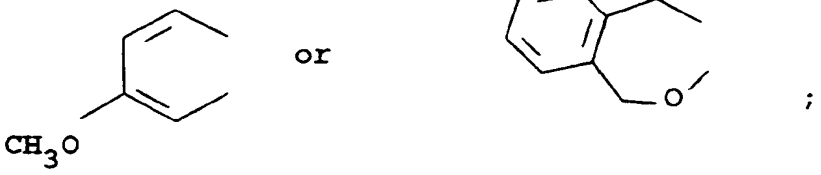


(wherein X_{15} is as defined above, and

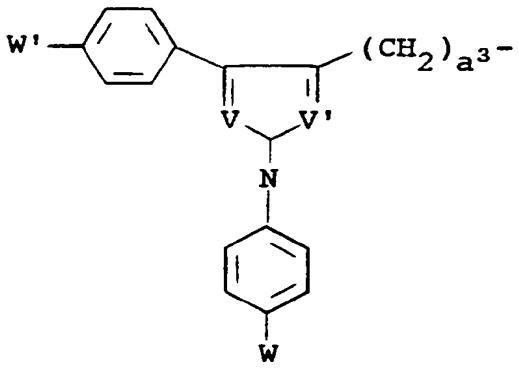


is



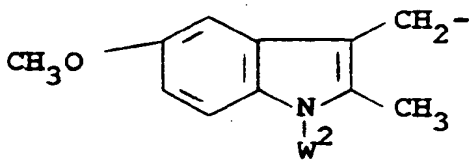


;

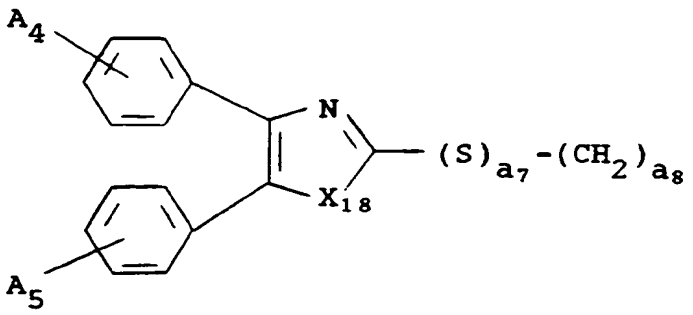


wherein a^3 is 1, 2 or 3;
W and W', are identical or different, and each is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine, and
one of V and V' is nitrogen and the other is a methyne residue optionally substituted by a phenyl group,

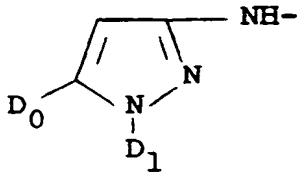
and



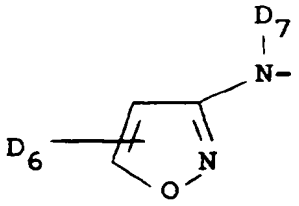
wherein W^2 is p-chlorobenzoyl or cinnamoyl);



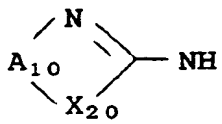
(wherein A_4 and A_5 are the same or different and are H, OH, lower alkoxy or halogen;
X_{15} is O, S or NH;
a_7 is 0 or 1;
a_8 is 0 or an integer of 1-6);



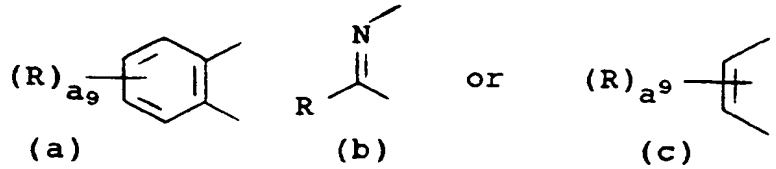
(wherein D_0 is H or alkyl;
D_1 is H or lower alkyl);



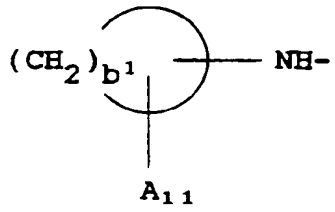
(wherein D_6 is H, 1-10C alkyl, 3-10C cycloalkyl, phenyl, 2-10C alkenyl (optionally substituted by phenyl) or phenyl(1-5C)alkyl (optionally ring-substituted by a 1-5C alkoxy);
D_7 is H or 2-6C alkanoyl);



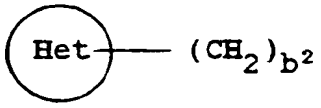
(wherein A_{10} is a group of formula (a)-(c):



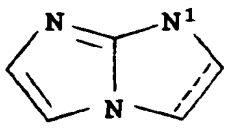
and X_{20} is O, S or NH);



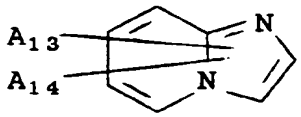
(wherein A_{11} is H or 1-5C alkyl;
b_1 is 3-10);



(wherein ring Het is a group of formula (A) or (B):

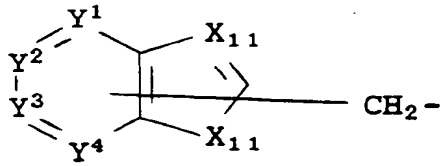


(A)



(B)

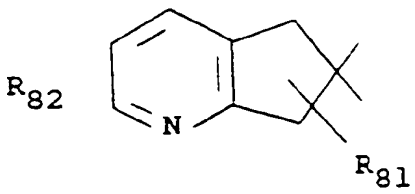
the dotted line represents an optional double bond; A_{13}, A_{14} are H, 1-5C alkyl, halogen or OH);

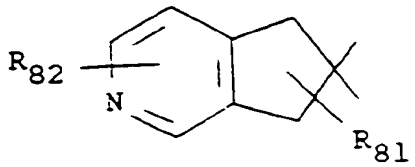


(wherein X_{11} are both N or one is N and the other is CH; one of Y^1-Y^4 is N and the rest is CH);

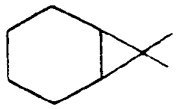
and the other of R^5 and R^6 is H, halogen, C_1-C_{30} alkyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, uriedo (NH_2CO-$N(R^{38})$- where R^{38} is H, alkyl, benzyl, phenyl optionally substituted with Cl or CH_3); alkenylamino, cycloalkylamino, aryloxy, pyridinium, guanidinium, ammonium, di-and tri-lower alkanolammonium, hydroxy, arylalkyl, alkoxy, alkylaryloxy, $-CH_2CO_2H$, $-CH_2PO_3H_2$, $-CH(PO_3H_2)(OH)$, $-CH_2CO_2C_2H_5$, $-CH_2CH(PO_3H_2)_2$, a hydrocarbyl radical as defined herein, a heterocyclic radical as defined herein, alkanoyl, an R^6 or R^5 radical as defined herein, a prodrug ester (such as (1-alkanoyloxy)alkyl, for example $t\text{-}C_4H_9CO_2CH_2$-, $CH_3CO_2CH_2$-);

at least one of R^5 and R^6 being a lipophilic group, or R^5 and R^6 can be joined to form a carbocyclic ring containing 3 to 12 carbons or a heterocyclic ring containing N, O and/or S atoms, such as of the formula





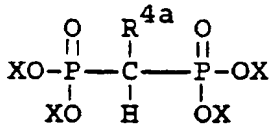
or



wherein R_{81} and R_{82} are each one or more substituents selected from H, optionally substituted saturated or unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, amido, OH, halogen, optionally substituted amino, amido, COOH, carbonyl, carboxylate, alkoxy and NO_2.

The various preferred bisphosphonate compounds of structure I which may be employed in the method of the invention are outlined below.

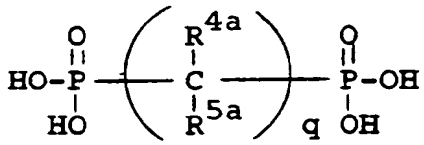
a) methylene diphosphonic acids and salts and esters as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,299,123, 3,414,393 and 3,518,200 all to Fitch et al (all assigned to Monsanto), U.S. Patent Nos. 3,463,835, 3,471,406, 3,892,676 and 4,440,646 all to Budnick (all assigned to Plains Chemical Development Co.) (disclosed for use as surfactants, metal ion sequestering and deflocculating agents for detergents, gasoline additives, dry cleaning agents) having the formula



wherein R^{4a} is an aliphatic hydrocarbyl (for example, alkyl, aralkyl), alicyclic (for example, cycloalkyl), aryl, alkylaryl of from 5 to 30 carbon atoms and carbon containing heterocyclics (such as those set out above with respect to R^4 and R^5) (any of R^{4a} being optionally substituted with OH, halo, alkoxy, ester, ether, nitro, sulfonyl, amido, amino, carboxyl or nitroso); and

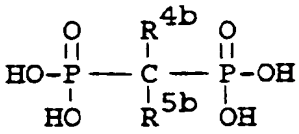
X is H, alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, aluminum, ammonium, amine and aliphatic hydrocarbyl, aryl, alkylaryl of from 1 to 30 carbons;

b) alkylenediphosphonic acids and/or salts disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,297,578 to Crutchfield et al, and 3,346,487 to Irani et al (both assigned to Monsanto) (used in detergents) and having the formula



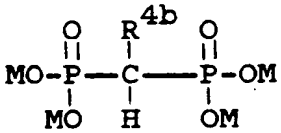
wherein R^{4a} is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, and R^{5a} is H, OH or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

c) substituted methylene diphosphonic acids esters, or salts thereof as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,404,178 and 3,422,021 each to Roy (both assigned to Procter & Gamble) (used in detergents) having the formula



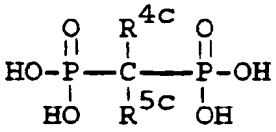
wherein R^{4b} and R^{5b} are each selected from H, methyl, benzyl or carboxymethylene (CH_2CO_2H), at least one of R^{4b} and R^{5b} being other than H;

d) alkyldiphosphonic acids, esters or salts as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,609,075 to Barbera (assigned to Procter & Gamble) having the formula



wherein R^{4b} is alkyl of from 12 to 30 carbons and M is H, C_1 to C_8 alkyl, alkali metal or ammonium;

e) diphosphonates as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,488,419 to McCune et al, 3,683,080 to Francis and 3,678,154 to Widder et al, (disclosed for use in compositions for inhibiting deposition and mobilization of calcium phosphate, arthritis, atherosclerosis) (not related to cholesterol biosynthesis inhibition or cholesterol lowering) having the formula



wherein R^{4c} is H, C_1 to C_{20} alkyl, C_2 to C_{20} alkenyl, aryl, phenylethenyl, benzyl, halo, amino, substituted amino (for example, dimethylamino, diethylamino, N-hydroxy-N-ethylamino, acetylamino), $-CH_2COOH$, $-CH_2PO_3H_2$, $-CH(PO_3H_2)(OH)$ or $-CH_2CH(PO_3H_2)_2$,

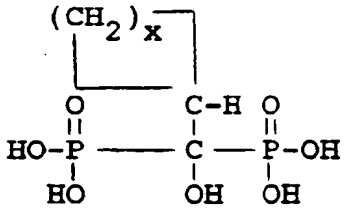
R^{5c} is H, lower alkyl, amino, benzyl, halo, OH, $-CH_2CO_2H$, $-CH_2PO_3H_2$, $-CH_2CH_2PO_3H_2$,

at least one of R^{4c} and R^{5c} being a lipophilic group;

[The following additional patents disclose type e) diphosphonate compounds:

U.S. Patent Nos. 4,330,530 to Baker (disclosed for use with gold salts for treating arthritis); 4,067,971 to Francis (disclosed for use in hypoxias and ischemic tissue diseases), 4,254,114 to Triebwasser (disclosed for use in control of pyrophosphate microorganisms), 4,137,309 to Van Duzee (disclosed for use in sickle cell anemia), European Patent Application 88462A2 (disclosed for use with steroids for anti-inflammatory utilities)];

f) methanecycloalkylhydroxydiphosphinates as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,553,314 to Francis (assigned to Procter & Gamble) [disclosed for use in oral compositions for calculus retardation and for treating deposition and mobilization of calcium phosphate including atherosclerosis (unrelated to cholesterol inhibition or lowering)] having the formula

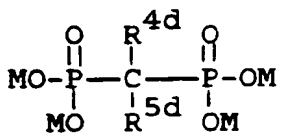


wherein x is 1 to 7 so that the ring may contain 4 to 10 carbons, including salts thereof such as alkali-metal,

alkaline earth metal, non-toxic heavy metal, ammonium or low molecular weight substituted ammonium.

[The following additional patents disclose type f) compounds: U.S. Patent Nos. 3,959,458 to Agricola et al, 4,025,616 and 3,934,002 both to Haefele (all relating to therapeutic substances for use in toothpaste compositions), and U.S. Patent No. 3,584,125 to Francis (relating to substances for inhibiting anomalous deposition and mobilization of calcium phosphates in animal tissue, arthritis, atherosclerosis (unrelated to cholesterol inhibition or lowering)); GB 1,453,667 (for containing radio-active P for treatment of tumors) (all assigned to Procter & Gamble)];

g) alkyldiphosphonates as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,113,861 to Fleisch (assigned to Procter & Gamble) (disclosed or use in treatment of diabetes) having the formula

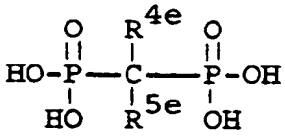


wherein R^{4d} is a C_2 or higher hydrocarbyl group (preferably containing 6 to 13 carbons) such as unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or carbocyclic group (cycloalkyl)

R^{5d} is H, OH or NH_2,

M is H, metal ion (such as alkali metal), alkyl or aryl;

i) polyphosphonates as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,761,406 to Flora et al (assigned to Procter & Gamble) (disclosed for treating or preventing osteoporosis) having the formula



wherein R^{4e} is R^7-X-$(CH_2)_a$-

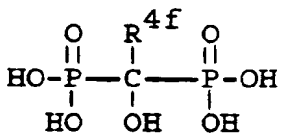
wherein R^7 is H or a nitrogen-containing 6-membered aromatic ring (such as pyridyl, indanyl, hexahydroindanyl, picolyl);

X is -NH-, oxygen or a single bond;

"a" is 0 to 7;

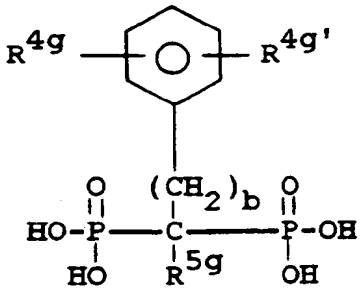
R^{5e} is H, Cl, amino or OH;

j) bisphosphonates as disclosed in Derwent No. 85-223756 (Akad Wissenschaft DDR) and DE 3804686 (Henkel) (disclosed for use in anticancer compositions) having the formula



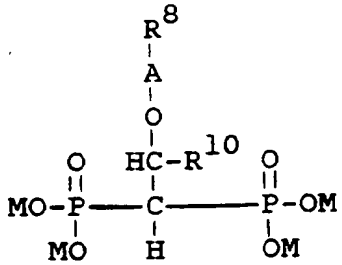
wherein R^{4f} is C_6 to C_{17} alkyl (Akad Wissenschaft) and C_1 to C_9 alkyl (Henkel) containing amino, carboxylate and other substituents);

k) bisphosphonates as disclosed in DE 3,425,746 (Amersham Buchler) (disclosed for use in diagnosis and treatment of bone tumors, and other diseases of the skeletal system) having the formula

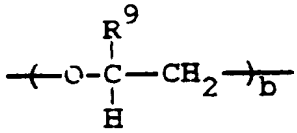


wherein R^{4g} and $R^{4g'}$ are independently H, alkyl, aryl, OH, alkoxy, aryloxy, amino, alkyl- or arylamino, carboxylalkyl, mercapto, alkyl- or arylthio, halo, nitro, cyano, sulfonic or sulfonamide, and R^{5g} is H, alkyl, aryl, OH, halo, amino, PO_3H_2 (alkyl has 1 to 6 carbons and is branched or unbranched, aryl has 6 to 14 carbons and either may be substituted);

l) oxa-alkane diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,892,679 to Blum et al (assigned to Henkel Kommanditgeselsschaft) (disclosed for use as metal ion complexing agents and in diseases of calcium and phosphate metabolism) having the formula

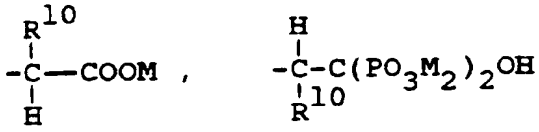


wherein A is



where b is 1 to 20,

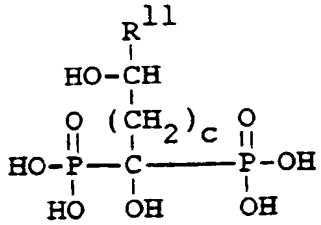
R^8 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, optionally substituted C_6-C_{10} aryl, phenylalkyl, naphthylalkyl,



R^9 and R^{10} are independently H or CH_3; and

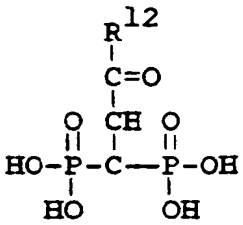
M is H or a monovalent cation;

m) dihydroxyalkane diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,536,348 to Blum (assigned to Henkel) (disclosed for use as complexing and sequestering agents and in diseases of calcium and phosphate metabolism) having the formula



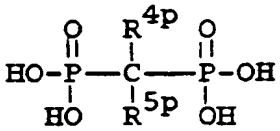
wherein R^{11} is H, phenyl, phenyl substituted with halo, C_1 to C_6 alkyl or OH and c is 1 to 9;

n) 3-oxo-propene-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in European Patent 0301352A2 (disclosed for use as a calcium complexing agent and in diseases of calcium and phosphate metabolism and tartar prevention) having the formula



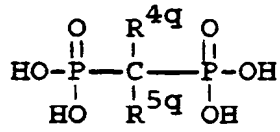
wherein R^{12} is tert-alkyl CR^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15} (wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are independently C_1-C_3alkyl and R^{15} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl); cycloalkyl; aryl; or heteroaryl; or cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl substituted with halo, C_1-C_4alkyl, alkoxy or dialkylamino;

o) lipophilic bisphosphonates as disclosed in WO88/00829 (Leo Pharmaceutical Products) (disclosed for use for nasal administration in diseases involving calcium metabolism and arthritis) having the formula



wherein R^{4p} is alkyl, phenoxy, 4-Cl-C_6H_4-S-CH_2- and R^{5p} is H or OH;

p) methylene bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in WO86/00902 (Leo Pharmaceutical Products) (disclosed for use in various diseases involving calcium phosphate deposition or resorption, including atherosclerosis, and prevention of dental calculus) having the formula



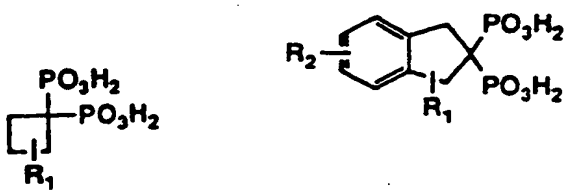
wherein R^{4q} is R^{16}-$(QCH_2CH_2)_dO$- wherein R^{16} is a straight or branched, saturated or unsaturated aliphatic or alicyclic C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon radical, an aryl or an aryl-C_1-C_4-alkyl radical, R_1 if desired being unsubstituted or substituted with straight or branched C_1-C_4-alkyl, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, di-(C_1-C_4-alkyl)-amino, carboxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, phenoxy, mercapto, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, phenylthio, halogen, trifluoromethyl;

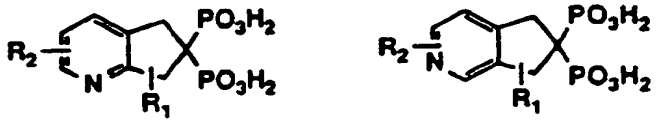
R^{5q} is hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, aryl-C_1-C_4-alkyl or halogen;

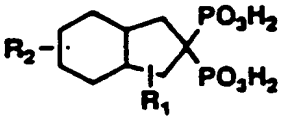
Q is O or S, and d is 0, 1 or 2; with the proviso that R^{5q} cannot be hydrogen or methyl if d=O and R^{1b} is methyl,

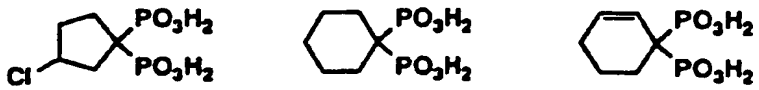
including double esters thereof;

q) cyclic diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,687,768 and European Patent Applications 0304961 and 0304962 all to Benedict et al and assigned to Procter & Gamble (disclosed for treating diseases characterized by abnormal calcium and phosphate metabolism) having the formula







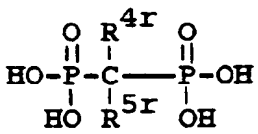


wherein R_1 represents one or more substituents including alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, benzyl, hydroxy, halogen, amino, amido, carboxy, carbonyl, carboxylate, alkoxy and combinations thereof, and

R_2 represents hydrogen, nitro, or any of the groups defined under R_1;

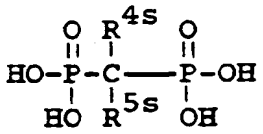
wherein the above R_1 and/or R_2 groups may optionally include substituents such as alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, halogen, hydroxy or cycloalkyl;

r) bisphosphonates as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,515,766 to Castronovo et al (assigned to Mass. Gen. Hosp.) (disclosed for use in forming radiolabeled compounds for scanning for calcium deposits) having the formula



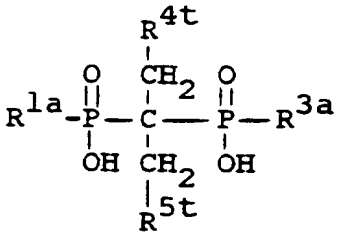
wherein R^{4r} is aryl, and R^{5r} is H, alkyl, alkenyl, amino, benzyl, OH, $-CH_2PO_3H$, $-CH_2CH_2PO_3O_2$.

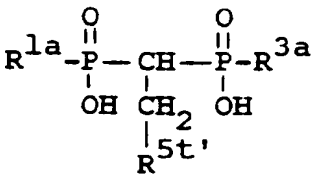
s) bisphosphonates as disclosed in Derwent No. 79-00757C/01 (Japanese Patent No. 55-4147-925) (disclosed for use as herbicides) having the formula



wherein R^{4s} and R^{5s} are independently H, halo, alkyl or cycloalkyl, at least one of R^{4s} and R^{5s} being a lipophilic group;

t) diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,836,956 and 4,818,774 each to Kem (each assigned to Occidental Chemical Corp) (disclosed for use in extraction of uranium and other metals from water) having the formula





wherein R^{1a} and R^{3a} are the same or different and are alkyl and alkylaryl groups having from 1 to about 18 carbon atoms or hydroxyl;

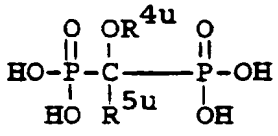
R^{4t} is independently selected from substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or alkylaryl groups having 1 to about 18 carbon atoms or hydrogen;

R^{5t} is independently selected from alkyl or alkylaryl groups having 1 to about 18 carbon atoms; provided that the sum of carbon atoms of the R groups is at least 15; and

$R^{5t'}$ is independently selected from substituted and unsubstituted alkyl or alkylaryl groups having 1 to about 18 carbon atoms or a polymeric group; provided that the sum of the carbon atoms of the R^1, R^{1a}, R^{3a} and $R^{5t'}$ groups is a least 16.

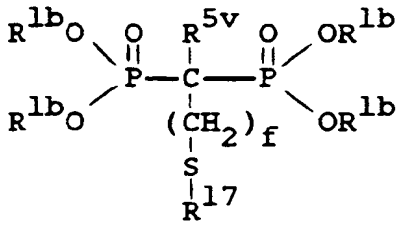
Substituted alkyl and alkylaryl groups include alkyl and alkylaryl groups substituted with moieties, such as fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo and hydroxyl group;

u) bisphosphonate acids as disclosed in European Patent Application 185589A (Rhone-Poulenc) (used for treatment of Paget's disease and osteoporosis) having the formula



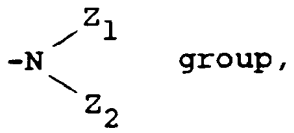
wherein R^{4u} is C_2 or C_3 alkyl and R^{5u} is H or alkyl; or R^{4u} is C_{1-3} alkyl and R^{5u} is C_{1-2}alkyl.

v) methylene diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,746,654 and 4,876,248 both to Breliere (both assigned to Sanofi) (disclosed for use as anti-inflammatory agents) having the formula

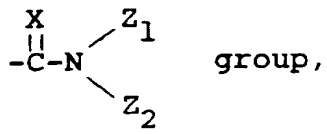


wherein R^{1b} is hydrogen or a straight or branched lower alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

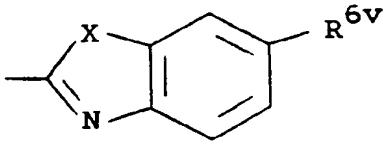
R^{17} is hydrogen, an alkyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by a hydroxyl group, a thiol group, one or more halogen atoms, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a



where Z_1 and Z_2, considered independently of one another, are hydrogen or a lower alkyl group, a phenyl group which is unsubstituted or has one or more halogen, nitro group, lower alkyl group, lower alkoxy group, trifluoromethyl, NH_2 group, COOH group or COOalkyl group, a

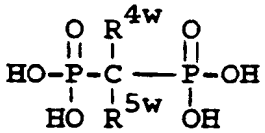


where X is oxygen or sulfur and Z_1 and Z_2 are as defined above, a heterocyclic radical with 5 or 6 members, containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms chosen from amongst nitrogen and sulfur, or, a heterocyclic radical with 5 members fused to a benzene ring and having the formula



where X is oxygen, an NH group or sulfur and R^{6v} is hydrogen or a halogen atom, preferably chlorine, R^{5v} is hydrogen or a hydroxyl group, and f is an integer between 0 and 10, with the proviso that f cannot be 0 if R^{5v} is OH;

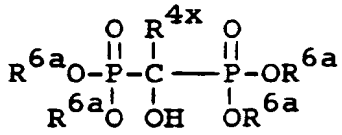
w) bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in European Patent Application 336851A (Sanofi) (disclosed for use with sodium lauryl sulfate (for oral availability) for treating rheumatism and arthritis) having the formula



wherein R^{4w} is halo, C_{1-5} alkyl (optionally substituted with Cl, OH, NH_2 or dialkylamino), phenoxy, phenyl, thio, phenylthio, chlorophenylthio, pyridyl, 4-thiomorpholinyl and R^{5w} is H, halo, OH, NH_2, dialkylamino;

x) diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,503,049 to Biere et al (assigned to Schering A.G.) (disclosed for use as anti-inflammatory and antiarthritic agents and for diseases involving calcium) having

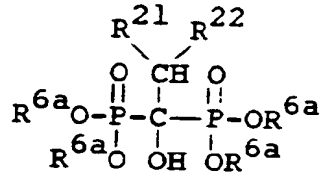
the structure



wherein R^{6a} is hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or alkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms, and R^{4x} is the residue of a carboxylic acid containing an aromatic or heteroaromatic group and being of the formula

arylCOOH,

diphosphonic acid derivatives of the formula

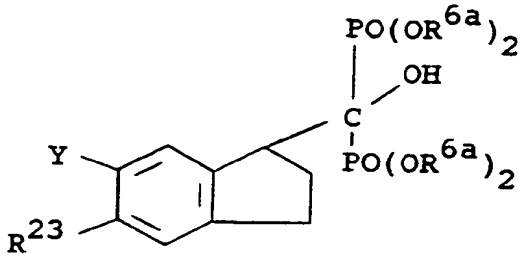


wherein R^{6a} is as defined above;

R^{21} is hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl; and

R^{22} is phenyl substituted in the para-position by isobutyl, cyclohexyl, alkoxy, or 1-pyrrolinyl and, optionally substituted additionally in the meta-position by fluorine or chlorine; or phenyl substituted in the meta-position by benzoyl or phenoxy, or phenyl substituted in the ortho-position by 2,4-dichlorophenoxy or 2,6-dichlorophenylamino;

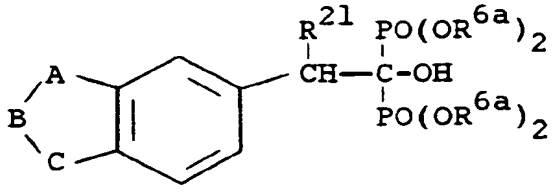
diphosphonic acid derivatives of the formula



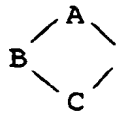
wherein R^{6a} is as defined above;

R^{23} is cyclohexyl or cyclopentylmethyl; and Y is hydrogen or chlorine;

diphosphonic acid derivatives of the formula



wherein R^{6a} and R^{21} are as defined above, and



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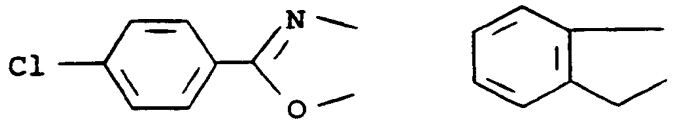
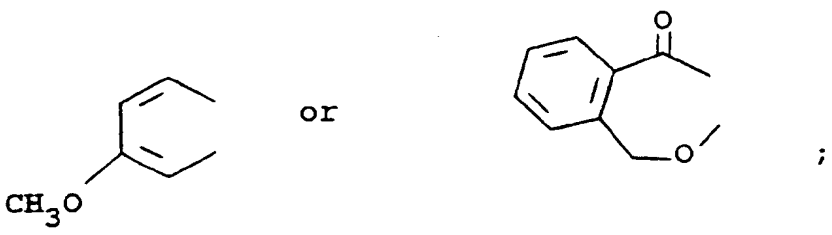
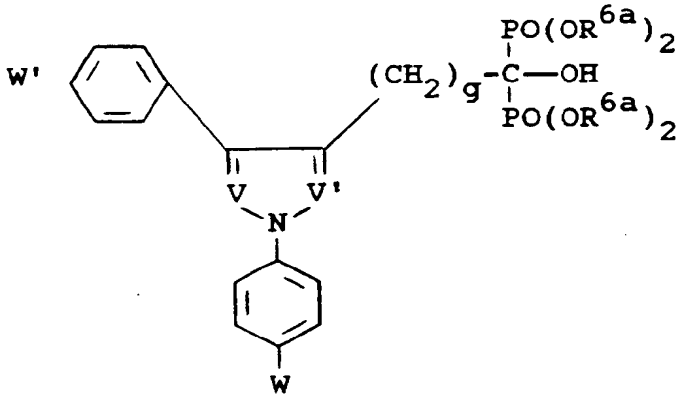




diphosphonic acid derivatives of the formula



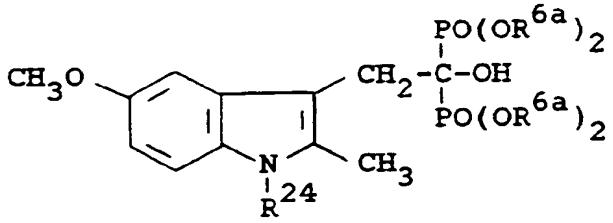
wherein g is 1, 2, or 3;

R^{6a} is as defined above;

W and W', are identical or different, and each is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine, and

one of V and V' is nitrogen and the other is a methyne residue optionally substituted by a phenyl group; and

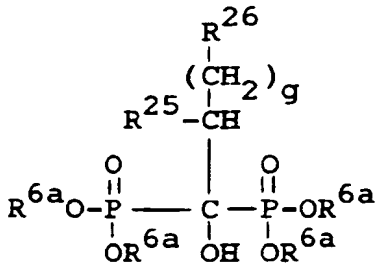
diphosphonic acid derivatives of the formula



wherein R^{6a} is as defined above, and

R^{24} is p-chlorobenzoyl or cinnamoyl; or, throughout, when R^{6a} is H, a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an organic base;

y) diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,473,560 to Biere et al (assigned to Schering AG) (disclosed for use as anti-inflammatory and antiarthritic agents, and for diseases involving calcium, such as Paget's disease, osteoporosis, and ectopic calcification) having the formula



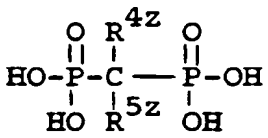
wherein g is 0, 1 or 2;

R^{25} is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^{6a} is H, alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

R^{26} is phenyl optionally substituted by F atom(s), Cl atom(s), alkyl group(s) of 1-4 carbons, alkoxy group(s) of 1-4 carbons; naphthyl; biphenyl; or thienyl; or salts thereof;

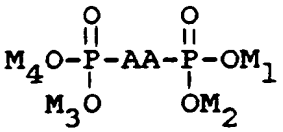
z) bisphosphonates as disclosed in Japanese Patent JK 73-54,278 (used in peroxide bleaching solutions) having the formula



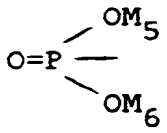
wherein R^{4z} is H or alkyl and

R^{5z} is H, OH or alkyl, at least one of R^{4z} and R^{5z} being a lipophilic group;

aa) alkylenepolyphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,276,089 to Moran (assigned to Union Chimique et Industrielle de l'Ouest S.A.) (disclosed for use with polyamines as corrosion inhibitors) having the structure

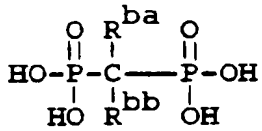


wherein AA represents a bivalent alkylene group which is a straight and saturated C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon chain, each carbon of which may be optionally substituted by at least one of OH, C_1-C_4 alkyl and phosphonic group



and M_1 to M_6 may be the same or different and are H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, NH_4^+ or a metal cation;

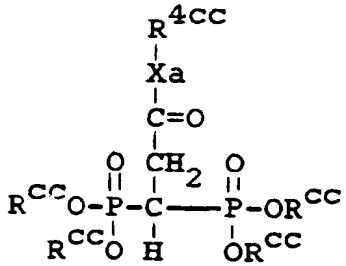
bb) bisphosphonates as disclosed in DD 237,252A, Derwent No. 86-291914/45 (assigned to Veb Chem Bitterfeld) (disclosed for use as a plant growth regulator) having the formula



wherein R^{ba} is H, lower alkyl, pyrrolidino or piperidino and

R^{bb} is H, OH or lower alkyl, at least one of R^{ba} and R^{bb} being a lipophilic group;

cc) bisphosphonates as disclosed in Japanese Patent No. J-6-3,295,595A, Derwent No. 89-019688/03 (assigned to Yamanouchi Pharm KK) (disclosed or use as anti-inflammatory, and analgesic agents, and for bone abnormalities due to rheumatism, arthritis and osteoporosis), having the formula

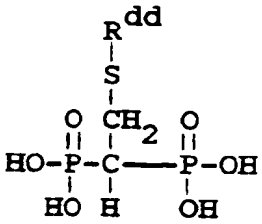


wherein R^{cc} is H or lower alkyl;

Xa is NH or a bond; and

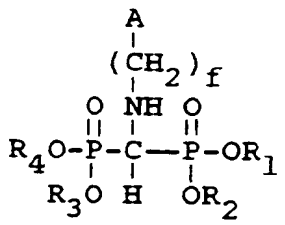
R^{4cc} is phenyl or pyrrolyl each optionally substituted with alkyl;

dd) bisphosphonates as disclosed in USSR SU 862,439 (disclosed for use as collecting agents for the flotation of tin containing ore) having the formula



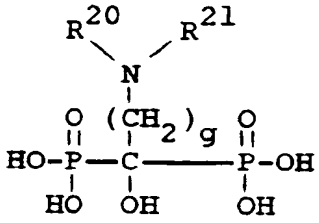
wherein R^{dd} is a C_3-C_{10} aliphatic (such as alkyl), aromatic (such as phenyl) or arylaliphatic (such as benzyl) hydrocarbyl group;

ee) substituted aminomethylenebis(phosphonic acid) derivatives as disclosed in European Patent Application 337706 (Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co.) (disclosed for use in bone resorption-inhibitory and anti-inflammatory effects) having the formula



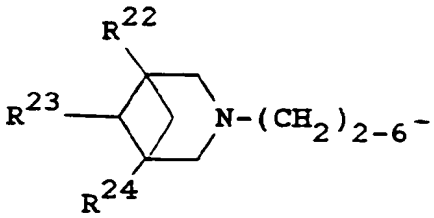
wherein R_1-R_4 is H or alkyl, f is o to 4 and A is C_5-C_8 cycloalkenyl, bicycloheptyl, bicycloheptenyl, saturated C_4-C_7 heterocyclyl containing O, S, SO or SO_2;

ff) araliphatyl aminoalkyldiphosphonic acids as disclosed in European Patent Application 320455 (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use in disorders of calcium metabolism) having the formula



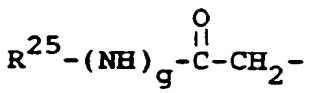
wherein R^{20} is arylaliphatic residue, R^{21} is H or aliphatic residue, and $(CH_2)_g$ is a divalent aliphatic residue where g is 1 to 6;

gg) azabicycloheptanes as disclosed in European Patent Application 317506 (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use as calcium metabolism modulators) having the formula I wherein R^5 is



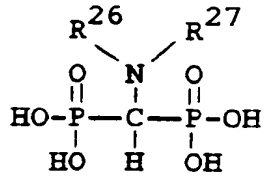
(wherein R^{22} is H, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, alkoxy, aryl;
R^{23} is H, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, halo, carboxyl;
R^{24} is H, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, alkoxy);

hh) 3-oxopropylidene-1,1-diphosphonates as disclosed in Japanese Patent Application 87-271,433 (Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co.) (disclosed for use as inflammation inhibitors, analgesics, antipyretics) having the formula I wherein R^5 is



wherein R^{25} is (alkyl-substituted)pyrrolyl or phenyl and g is 0 or 1;

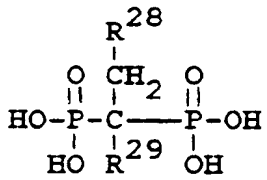
ii) (aminomethylene)diphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 63150290 (Ciba-Geigy) having the structure



wherein R^{26} is (benzo- or cyclohexeno-fused) 5-membered heteroaryl containing 2 to 4 N atoms or 1-2 N atoms plus an O or S atom with optional substituents such as alkyl or halo;

R^{27} is H or alkyl, but R^{27} is alkyl when R^{26} is (alkyl and/or halo-substituted) pyrazol-3-yl or isoxazol-3-yl;

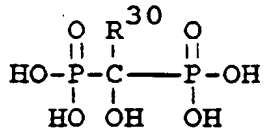
jj) alkylenediphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 63150291 (Ciba-Geigy) having the formula



wherein R^{28} is a 5-membered heteroaryl containing 2-4 N atoms or 1-2 N atoms plus an O or S atom optionally substituted with alkyl or halo, and

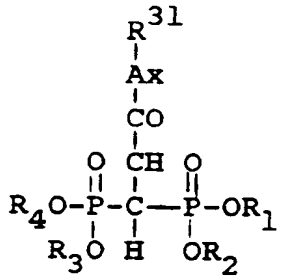
R^{29} is H, OH, NH_2, alkylthio or halo;

kk) azacycloalkylalkanediphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 272208 (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use as regulators of calcium metabolism) having the formula



wherein R^{30} is aromatic-substituted mono- or biazacyclylalkyl (alkyl bonds with N in heterocycle);

ll) 2-substituted-2-oxoethylene-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 63185993 (Yamanouchi Pharmaceutical Co.) (disclosed for use in bone disorders, anti-inflammatories) having the structure

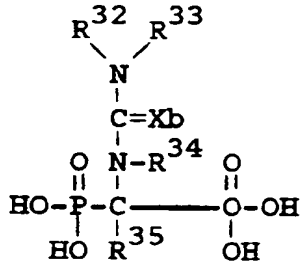


wherein R_1-R_4 is H or lower alkyl, Ax is phenyl, naphthyl, mono- or bicyclic N-containing heterocycles, and

R^{31} is H, halo, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl;

mm) ureidoalkylbisphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 63088192 (Fujisawa Pharma-

ceutical Co.) (disclosed for use as bone absorption inhibitors) having the formula



wherein R^{32} is optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aralkyl, or optionally substituted alkyl,

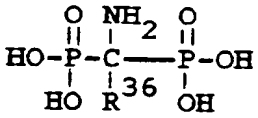
R^{33} is H or aryl,

R^{34} and R^{35} are H or alkyl, and

Xb is O or S;

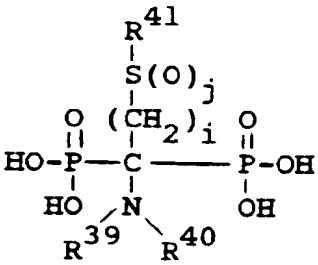
nn) heterocyclicalkyl diphosphonic acids as disclosed in DE 3640938 (Boehringer Mannheim) (for use in treating calcium metabolic disorders) such as 1-(decahydroquinolin-3-yl)methane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid, di Na salt;

oo) 1-aminoalkyl-1,1-bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in DD 222598 (Akademic der Wissenschaften) having the formula



wherein R^{36} is C_2-C_{12} alkyl.

pp) methylenediphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 151072 (Sanofi) (disclosed for use in anti-inflammatory and antiarthritic compositions) having the formula

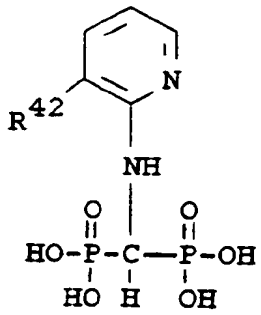


wherein R^{39} is H, alkyl or $CONH_2$,

R^{40} is H, alkyl, benzyl, optionally substituted phenyl (such as with Cl or CH_3), or R^{39}, R^{40} are $(CH_2)_{4,5}$, j is 0, 1 or 2, i is 1 to 5,

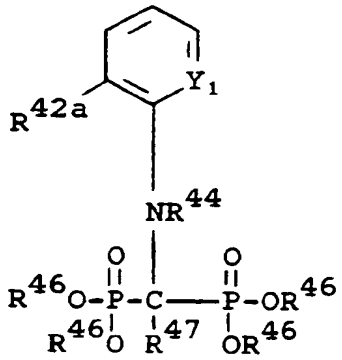
R^{41} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, optionally substituted phenyl or heterocyclyl;

qq) N-(unsubstituted or substituted pyridyl)amino-methylene diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,447,256 (Nissan Chemical Industries) (disclosed for use as herbicides) having the formula



wherein R^{42} is H, alkyl or halo;

rr) pyridylaminomethylenediphosphonates as disclosed in Japanese Patent 55089210 (Nissan Chemical Industries) (disclosed for use as herbicides) having the formula



wherein R^{46} is OH, halo, phenoxy or alkylamino,

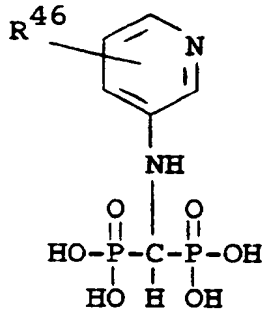
R^{47} is H or halo,

R^{44} is H or aliphatic acyl (such as alkanoyl or alkenoyl),

R^{42a} is alkyl, and

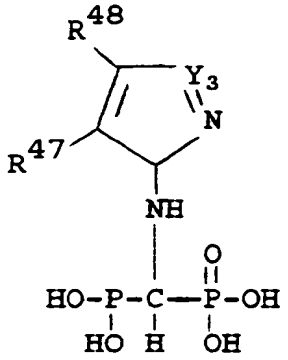
Y_1 is N, NO or $NR^{43}Y_2$, wherein R^{43} is alkyl and Y_2 is halo;

ss) pyridylbisphosphonates as disclosed in Japanese Patent 55098105 (Nissan Chemical Industries) (disclosed for use as herbicides) having the formula

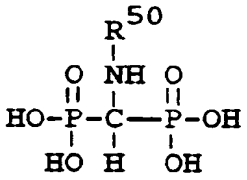


wherein R^{46} is H, halo or alkyl;

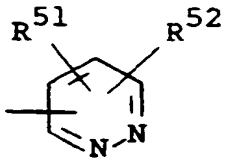
tt) bisphosphonates as disclosed in Japanese Patent 55089293 (Nissan Chemical Industries) (disclosed for use as herbicides) having the formula



wherein Y_3 is O or NH, R^4 is H, alkyl or halo, and R^{48} is H or alkyl;
uu) diphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 54144383 (Nissan Chemical Industries) (disclosed for use as herbicides) having the formula



wherein R^{50} is



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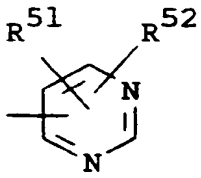
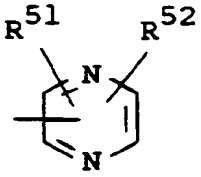
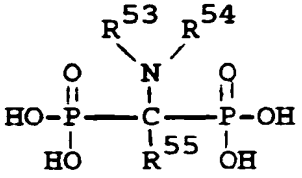


or

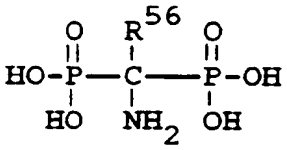


wherein R^{51} and R^{52} are H, halo, alkyl or hydroxy;
vv) diphosphonates as disclosed in Japanese Patent 54037829 (Nissan Chemical Industries) (disclosed for use as herbicides) having the formula



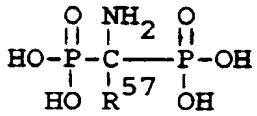
wherein R^{53} is H, alkyl, alkenyl, benzyl or ethylcarbonyloxymethyl,
R^{54} is H, alkyl, alkenyl or cyclohexyl,
R^{55} is H, alkyl, alkenyl or ethylcarbonyloxymethyl;

ww) disphosphonates as disclosed in UK 1508772 and DE 2625767 (Benckiser-Knapsack) (Shell) having the formula



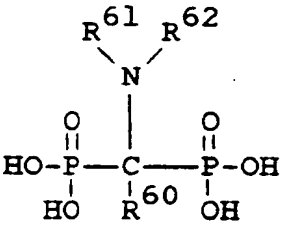
wherein R^{56} is C_5-C_{12} alkyl, aryl or aralkyl;

xx) 1-aminoalkylidene-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in DE 2115737 (Henkel) (disclosed for use as water softeners) having the formula



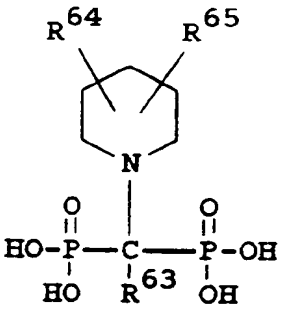
wherein R^{57} is CH_3, propyl, n-heptyl, n-$C_{11}H_{23}$, n-$C_{15}H_{31}$, i-propyl;

yy) 1-amino-alkylidenediphosphonic acids as disclosed in DE 2048912 and DE 2048913 (Henkel) (disclosed for use as water softeners) having the formula



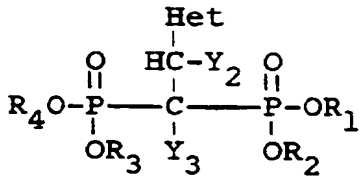
wherein R^{60} is H, CH_3, n-nonyl, phenyl, benzyl or CH_2CO_2H, R^{61} and R^{62} are H or CH_3;

zz) 1-piperidinoalkane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 53059674 (Nissan chemical Industries) (disclosed for use as herbicides) having the formula



wherein R^{63} is H or CH_3,
R^{64} is alkyl, and
R^{65} is H or alkyl;

aaa) heterocyclically substituted alkane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 170228A (Boehringer Mannheim) (disclosed for use as anti-inflammatory agents) having the structure

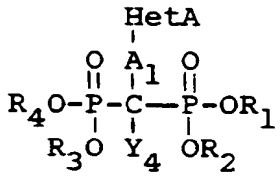


wherein Het is a heteroaromatic 5-membered ring with 2 or 3 heteroatoms, optionally partially hydrogenated and optionally substituted by one or more alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, halo or amino, with 2 adjacent alkyl optionally together forming a ring (Het cannot be pyrazole),

Y_2 is H or lower alkyl, and

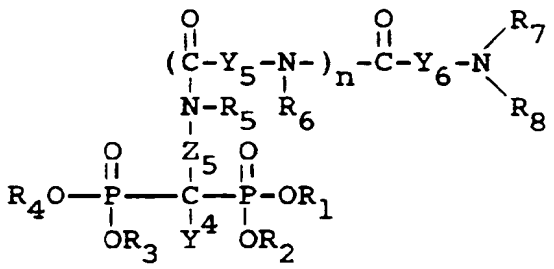
Y_3 is H, OH, amino or alkylamino;

bbb) diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,687,767 (Boehringer Mannheim) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disturbances) having the formula



wherein HetA is imidazole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiazole, pyridine, 1,2,3-triazole, 1,2,4-triazole or benzimidazole, the above heterocyclics optionally substituted by alkyl, alkoxy, halo, OH, carboxyl, amino optionally substituted by alkyl or alkanoyl or a benzyl optionally substituted by alkyl, nitro, amino or aminoalkyl, A_1 is a straight-chained or branched saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon chain containing 2 to 8 carbons, Y_3 is H, OH, alkanoyl;

bbb') diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,666,895 (Boehringer Mannheim) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disturbances) having the formula



wherein Y_4 is H or OH,

R_1-R_8 are independently H

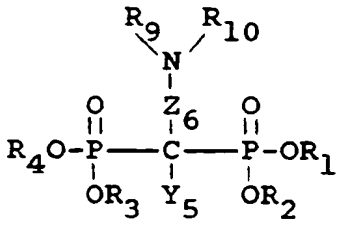
or lower alkyl, whereby R_7 and Y_6, or R_6 and Y_5, or R_5 and Z_5, together with the nitrogen atoms to which they are attached can form a 5- or 6-membered ring,

Y_6 and Y_5 which can be the same or different are C_1-C_6 alkylene chains optionally substituted by aromatic or heteroaromatic radicals,

Z_5 is C_1 to C_6 alkylene which can include heteroatoms and optionally substituted by aromatic or heteroaromatic,

n is 0, 1 or 2;

ccc) omega amino-alkane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in DE 623397 (Boehringer Mannheim) (disclosed for use in disorders of calcium metabolism) having the formula



wherein R_1-R_4 are H or C_1-C_4 alkyl,

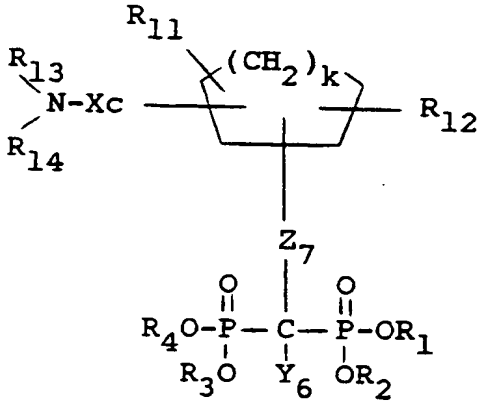
Z_6 is C_1-C_6 alkylene,

R_9 is saturated or unsaturated C_1-C_9 alkyl optionally substituted by phenyl or cyclohexyl,

R_{10} is cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, benzyl or saturated or unsaturated C_4-C_{18} alkyl optionally substituted by phenyl or optionally esterified or etherified OH, and

Y_5 is H, OH, or mono- or di(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino;

ddd) aminocycloalkane diphosphonates as disclosed in DE 3,540,150 (Boehringer Mannheim) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolic disorders) having the structure



wherein R_1-R_4 are H or alkyl,

Xc is a bond or alkylene,

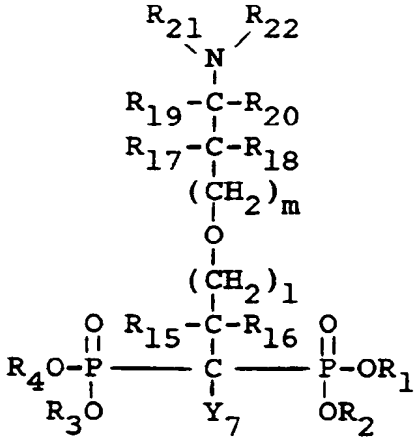
R_{13}, R_{14} are H, acyl, alkyl or aralkyl, R_{11}, R_{12} are H, alkyl or

R_{11}, R_{12} are together (CH_2),

Z_7 is a bond or (amino)alkylene,

Y_6 is H, OH, amino and k is 1 to 3;

eee) amino-oxa-alkane-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in DE 822650 (Boehringer Mannheim) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the structure



R_{21} and R_{22} are independently H, saturated or unsaturated 1-9C alkyl (optionally substituted by OH, 1-5C alkoxy, 1-5C alkylthio, Aryl or 5-7C cycloalkyl) 5-7C cycloalkyl or phenyl;

Aryl is phenyl optionally substituted by 1-5C alkyl, 1-5C alkoxy, OH or halogen;

R_{19} is H, 1-5C alkyl (optionally substituted by OH, 1-5C alkoxy, 1-5C alkylthio, SH, phenyl, 3-indolyl or 4-imidazolyl), or phenyl optionally substituted by OH or 1-5C alkoxy;

R_1-R_4, R_{20}, R_{18}, R_{16} are independently H or 1-5C alkyl;

R_{15} and R_{17} are independently H, 1-5C alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by OH or 1-5C alkoxy;

Y_7 is H, OH or $NR_{23}R_{24}$;

R_{23} and R_{24} are independently H or 1-5C alkyl;

m and 1 are independently 0 or 1;

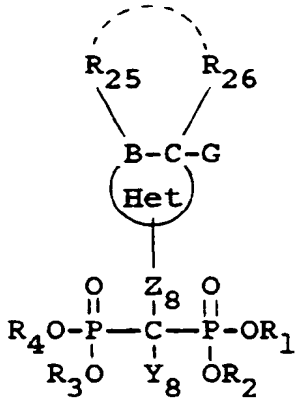
or NR_{21} R_{22} is a 4-9C mono- or bicyclic ring system which is partially or totally hydrogenated and is optionally substituted by OH, 1-5C alkyl or 1-5C alkoxy, where monocyclic rings may also contain an O, N or S atom;

or R_{21} + R_{20} forms a 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally fused with another 6-membered ring;

or R_{21} + R_{18} forms a 5- or 6-membered ring;

or R_{20} + R_{19}, R_{19} + R_{18}, R_{18} + R_{17} and/or R_{15} + R_{16} forms a 5- or 6-membered ring.

fff) diphosphonic acids as disclosed in DE 640938 (Boehringer Mannheim) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the structure



wherein Het is a hydrogenated or partially hydrogenated heterocycle containing 1 or 2 N atoms, each optionally substituted with alkyl, benzyl or cyclohexylmethyl;

B is N or CH and the bond connnecting B to the C atom to which G is attached can be a single or a double bond;

R_{25} and R_{26} are independently H or lower alkyl, or together form a 3-5C alkylene chain, and

this ring fused with Het may contain up to 3 double bonds;

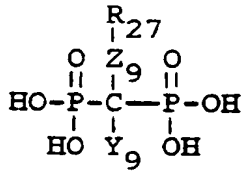
R_1 to R_4 are H or lower alkyl;

Z_8 is a single bond or optionally branched 1-6C alkylene which may not be attached to a heteroatom;

Y_8 is H, OH or amino;

G is H; and provided that, if Y_8 is a single bond, Het is not a pyrrolidine ring which is 2-substituted by Y_8;

ggg) methylenediphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 243173A (Fujisawa Pharm KK) (disclosed for use in abnormal bone metabolism) having the formula



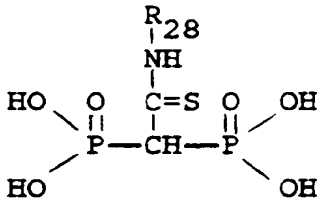
wherein R_{27} is aryl or heterocyclyl both optionally substituted by one or more of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, halo(lower)alkyl, acyl, acylamino or halo or R_{27} is lower alkyl substituted by heterocyclyl which is optionally substituted by acyl;

R_{27}-Z_9- is R_{27}-NHC(=X_9)-; R_{27}-C(=O)NH-; or R_{27}-SO_2-NH-;

X_9 is O or S;

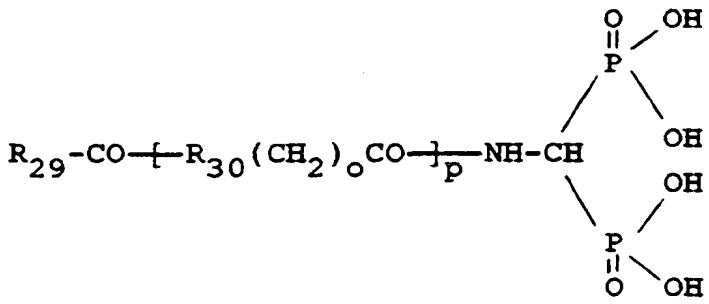
Y_9 is H or lower alkyl, provided that when R_{27} is lower alkyl then R_{27}-Z_9- is R_{27}NHC(X)- or $R_{27}SO_2$NH-;

hhh) diphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 261275 (Fujisawa Pharm) (disclosed for use in bone disorders) having the formula



wherein R_{28} is phenyl, pyridyl or quinolyl substituted by lower alkylsulphonylamino halo-lower alkylsulphonylamino and mono- or di-lower alkylamino;

hhh) diphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 259896 (Fujisawa Pharm) (disclosed for use as anti-inflammatory agents) having the formula



wherein R_{29}-CO- is a residue of pharmaceutically active compound R_{29}-COOH;

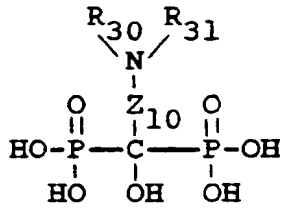
R_{30} = -NH- or -O-;

p = 0 or 1;

o = 1-10;

R_{29}-COOH is an anti-inflammatory agent, e.g. diclofenac, ibuprofen, mefenamic acid, aspirin, naproxen, ketoprofen, indomethacin or sulindac; antioncotic, e.g. methotrexate; or hormone, e.g. calcitonin or insulin-like growth factor;

iii) N-aralkyl-amino-alkane-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 371921A (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the formula

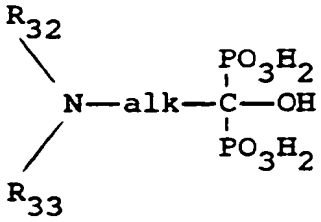


wherein Z_{10} is C_2-C_4aliphatic hydrocarbyl (e.g. alkylene),

R_{30} is phenyl substituted C_4-C_7aliphatic hydrocarbyl,

R_{31} is C_1-C_4aliphatic hydrocarbyl;

jjj) N-aralkylamino-1-hydroxyalkane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 320455A (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the formula



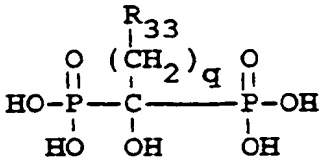
wherein R_{32} ia an aromatically-substituted aliphatic group;

R_{33} is H or monovalent aliphatic group;

alk is a divalent aliphatic group;

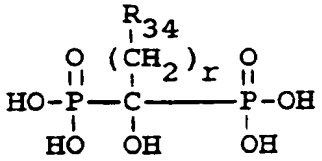
provided that when R_{32} is mono-substituted by phenyl, R_{33} is H or when R_{32} has 2 or 3C in the aliphatic portion, R_{33} is an aliphatic group with at most 3C;

kkk) azabicycloalkyl-1-hydroxyalkane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 317505A (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the structure



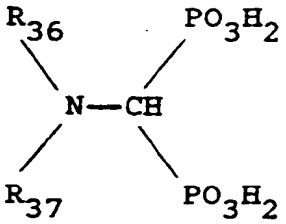
wherein R_{33} is an N-bonded azabicycloalkyl group with 3 to 8-membered rings, such as 3-azabicyclo-(3,1,1,)hept-3-yl, 1,5-dimethyl-3-azabicyclo(3,1,1)hept-3-yl, 3-azabicyclo(3,2,1)oct-3-yl, 3-azabicyclo(3,2,2)non-3-yl or 3-azabicyclo(4,2,2)dec-3-yl, and $(CH_2)_q$ is lower alkylene (2 to 4 carbons);

lll) azacycloalkyl-substituted 1-hydroxy-alkane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 272208A (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the formula



wherein R_{34} is an N-bonded, aryl-substituted mono- or diazacycloaliphatic group, such as 3-R_{35}-pyrrolidino, 3- or 4-R_{35}-piperidino or 6-R_{35}-3-azabicyclo-(3,1,1)hept-3-yl, wherein R_{35} is phenyl optionally substituted by C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy or halogen;

mmm) heteroarylaminomethane diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 274346A (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the formula



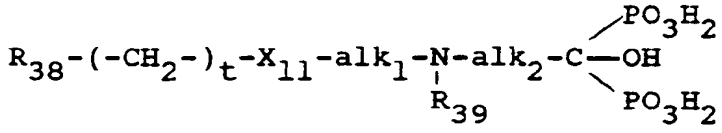
wherein R_{36} is a 5 membered heteroaryl with 2-4 N or with 1-2 N plus an O or S atom, optionally fused to a benzo or cyclohexeno ring;

R_{36} can be C substituted by lower alkyl, phenyl (optionally substituted by lower alkyl, alkoxy and/or halo), lower alkoxy, OH, di(lower alkyl)amino, lower alkylthio and/or halo, and/or N substituted by lower alkyl or phenyl (lower) alkyl (optionally substituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and/or halo);

R_{37} is H or lower alkyl; provided R_{37} is not H if R_{36} is optionally alkyl and/or halo substituted 3-pyrazolyl or 3-isoxazolyl;

examples of R_{36} groups are 2-thiazolyl (optionally substituted by 1 or 2 1-4 C alkyl or phenyl); imidazol-2-yl or benzimidazol-2-yl (optionally 1-substituted by 1-4 C alkyl or phenyl-(1-4 C) alkyl); or unsubstituted 2-benzoxazolyl or 2-benzothiazolyl;

nnn) N-substituted aminoalkanediphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 387194A (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the formula



wherein R_{38} is an aromatic residue (such as phenyl, pyridyl or pyrimidyl);

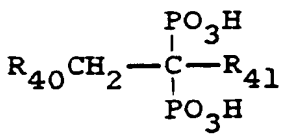
t is 0-3;

X_{11} is O, S (optionally oxidized) or amino (optionally substituted by aliphatic group);

alk_1 and alk_2 are divalent aliphatic groups;

R_{39} is H or monovalent aliphatic group;

ooo) 2-heteroarylethane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in Australian Patent 8781453A (Ciba-Geigy) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the formula

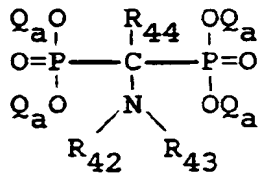


wherein R_{40} is a 5 membered heteroaryl containing either 2-4N atoms or 1-2N atoms and an O or S atom, optionally (a) C-substituted by lower alkyl, aryl, lower alkoxy, OH, di(lower alkyl)amino, lower alkylthio and/or halogen and/or (b) N-substituted by lower alkyl or aryl(lower)alkyl, where aryl in (a) and (b) is phenyl optionally substituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and/or halogen;

R_{41} is H, OH, NH_2, lower alkylthio or halogen;

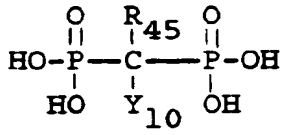
examples of R_{40} groups include imidazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl or thiazolyl, optionally C-substituted and/or N-substituted;

ppp) 1-aminoalkane-1,1-diphosphonates as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,846,420 and 3,979,385 (Henkel) (disclosed for use as metal ion complexing agents) having the formula



wherein R_{44} is hydrogen, lower alkyl and phenyl; R_{42} and R_{43} are independently hydrogen, alkyl having one to 22 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having five to six carbon atoms, phenyl, alkylphenyl having seven to 18 carbon atoms, phenylalkyl having seven to 18 carbon atoms and together with the nitrogen atom, piperidino, pyrrolidino and morpholino, and Q_a is hydrogen, alkali metal, ammonium, pyridinium, guanidinium and mono-, di-, and tri-lower-alkanol-ammonium, with the proviso that at least one of R_{42}, R_{43} and R_{44} is other than hydrogen;

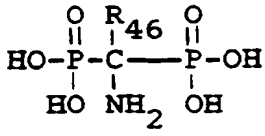
qqq) 1-aminoalkane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,899,496 (Henkel) having the formula



wherein R_{45} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl residue with 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, a cyclohexyl group, a phenylalkyl group with 7-12 carbon atoms, a piperidinyl group, a carboxyalkyl group with 2-12 carbon atoms, or a carbalkoxy alkyl group with 3-12 carbon atoms; and

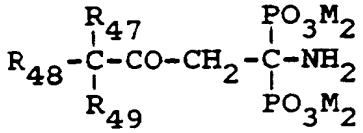
Y_{10} represents an NH_2 group, a piperidino group, a morpholino group or a NR_xR_y group, wherein R_x and R_y represent alkyl residues with 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

rrr) aminophosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,303,139 (Henkel) (disclosed for use as metal ion complex formers) having the formula



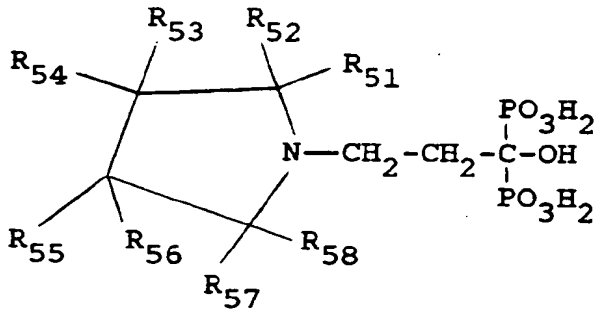
wherein R_{46} is a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic radical having 1-10 carbon atoms or a phenyl- or benzyl-radical;

sss) 3-alkyl-3-oxo-1-amino-propane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in DE 3611522A (Henkel) (disclosed for use in inhibiting growth of bacteria) having the formula



wherein R_{47} is optionally branched 1-8C alkyl;
R_{48} and R_{49} are each methyl or ethyl;
M is H or a cation of a water-soluble base;

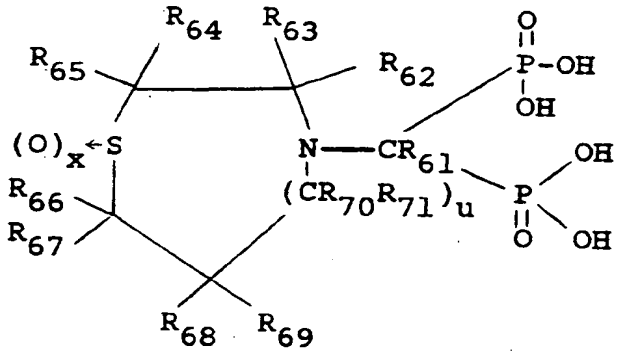
ttt) N-heterocyclic propylidene-1,1-bis-phosphonic acids as disclosed in WO 89/09775 (PCT/DK89/00071) (Leo Pharmaceutical Products) (disclosed for use in calcium metabolism disorders) having the formula



in which R_{51}-R_{58} can be the same or different and stand for hydrogen or a straight or branched aliphatic C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon radical; and

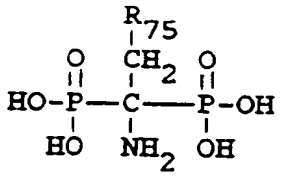
R_{53} when taken together with either R_{51} or R_{55} can form a saturated aliphatic 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may be substituted with one or more C_1-C_4-alkyl radicals;

uuu) thiomorpholinylmethylene-bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in WO 8703-598A (Leo Pharmaceuticals) (disclosed for use in reducing bone resorption and stimulating bone alkaline phosphatase) having the formula



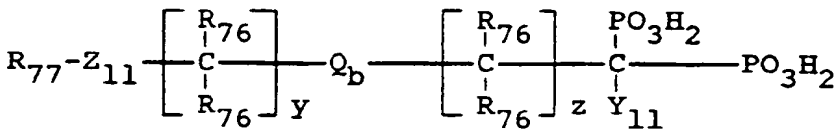
wherein R_{61}-R_{71} are independently H, straight, branched or alicyclic 1-10C hydrocarbyl, aryl or aryl-(1-4C)alkyl;
x is 0 or 1;
u is 0, 1 or 2 or
R_{62} + R_{64} may complete a 5- to 7- membered saturated aliphatic ring, optionally substituted by one or more 1-4C alkyl groups;

vvv) 1-aminoalkane-1,1-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,100,167 (Nalco Chemical) (disclosed for use as anti-corrosives) having the formula



wherein R_{75} is alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl (including phenyl substituted with a sulfonic acid group, halo or pyridyl);

www) heterocycle-substituted diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 274158A (Norwich Eaton) (disclosed for use in calcium or phosphate metabolism disorders and as antiplaque agents, herbicides) having the formula



wherein Z_{11} is a N-containing 6-membered ring heterocycle moiety selected from piperidinyl, diazinyl or triazinyl;

Q_b is a covalent bond, O, S or NR_{76};

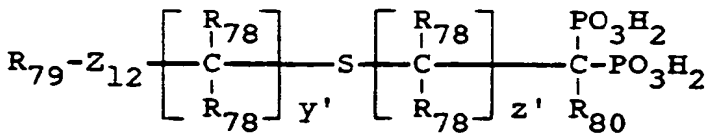
y, x and y + x are integers of 0-10;

Y_{11} is H, halogen, 1-6C alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, hydroxy or its ester derived from a 1-6C carboxylic acid, unsubstituted amino or its amide derived from a 1-6C carboxylic acid, amino substituted with one alkyl having 1-6C or its amide derived from a 1-6C carboxylic acid, di(1-6C alkyl)amino, tri(1-6C alkyl)ammonium, CO_2H or its salts or esters derived from 1-6C alcohols, or its amide optionally substituted with one or two 1-6C alkyl groups, except when n = 0 and Q_b = O, S or N, then Y_{11} is H, 1-6C alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, or Co_2H or its salts or the esters derived from 1-6C alcohols or its amide optionally substituted with one or two 1-6C alkyl groups;

R_{76} is H, methyl, ethyl or propyl;

R_{77} is one or more substituents selected from H, halogen, 1-3C alkyl, unsubstituted amino and its amide derived from a 1-3C carboxylic acid, mono(1-3C alkyl) amino and its amide derived a 1-3C carboxylic acid, di(1-3C alkyl)amino, tri(1-3C alkyl)ammonium, hydroxy or its ester derived from a 1-3C carboxylic acid, ether having 1-3C, CO_2H and its salts and esters derived form 1-3C alcohols, its amide optionally substituted with one or two 1-3C alkyl groups and NO_2;

xxx) N-heterocyclyl thio alkane diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 230068A (Norwich Eaton) (disclosed for use in calcium and phosphate metabolism disorders) having the structure



wherein Z_{12} is a 6-membered aromatic ring containing ≧ 1 N atom(s); where:

the ring is optionally substituted by (optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated) 1-6C alkyl, (optionally substituted) aryl, (optionally substituted) benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, $CONH_2$, (optionally substituted) NH_2 and/or carboxylate;

R_{78} is H or (optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated) 1-4C alkyl;

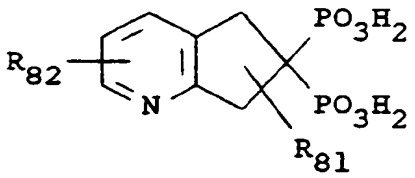
R_{79} is H, (optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated) 1-6C alkyl, (optionally substituted) aryl, (optionally substituted) benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, $CONH_2$, (optionally substituted) amino or carboxylate;

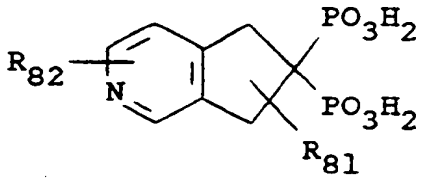
R_{80} is H, (optionally substituted) NH_2, $CONH_2$, OH, alkoxy, halogen, carboxylate, (optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated) 1-6C alkyl;

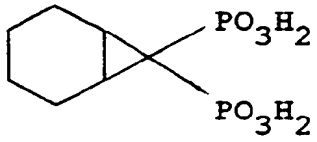
examples of Z_{12} are pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine ring;

y'+z' is 0 to 5;

zzz) cyclic diphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 304962A (Procter & Gamble) (disclosed for use in calcium and phosphate metabolism disorders) having the formula

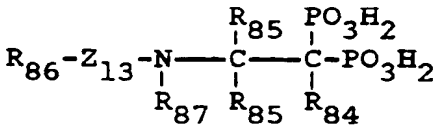


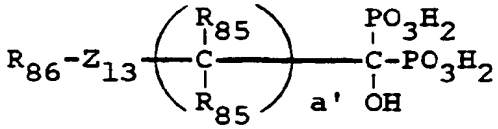




R_{81} and R_{82} are each one or more substituents selected from H, optionally substituted saturated or unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, amimo, OH, halogen, optionally substituted amino, amido, COOH, carbonyl, carboxylate, alkoxy and NO_2;

a[4]) heterocyclyl-alkane-diphosphonic acids as disclosed in Australian Patent 8551534A (Procter & Gamble) (disclosed for use in resorption of bone tissue) having the formula





wherein Z_{13} is pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine ring; this ring is optionally substituted by optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, oxo, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted NH_2 or carboxylate;

R_{84} is H, optionally substituted NH_2, amido, OH, alkoxy, halogen, carboxylate, optinally substituted optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted benzyl;

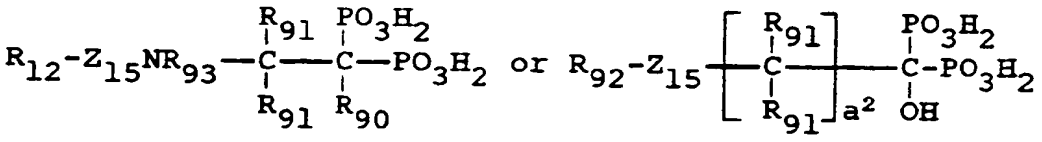
R_{85} is H or optionally substituted optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl;

R_{86} is one or more of H, optionally substituted optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, oxo, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted NH_2 or carboxylate;

R_{87} is H, optionally substituted optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl or acyl;

a' is 1-5;

b[4]) geminal diphosphonates as disclosed in EP 186405A (Procter & Gamble) (disclosed for use in calcium and phosphate metabolism disorders) having the strucuture



wherein Z_{15} is a 6 membered aromatic ring containing 1 or more N atoms such as pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine which ring may be substituted with one or more optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted amino or carboxylate;

R_{90} is H, optionally substituted amino, amido, OH, alkoxy, halogen, carboxylate, optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted benzyl;

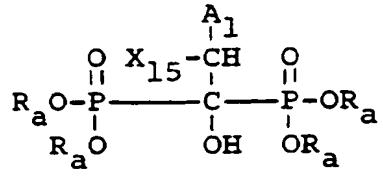
R_{91} is H or optionally substituted optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl;

R_{92} is H or one or more substituents selected from optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted amino or carboxylate;

R_{93} is H, optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl or acyl;

a^2 is 1 to 5;

c^4) diphosphonic acid derivatives as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,503,049 (Schering A.G.) (disclosed for use as anti-inflammatory agents) having the structure

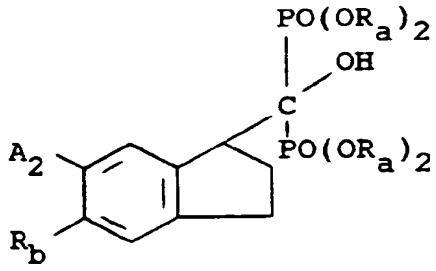


wherein R_a is hydrogen, an alkali metal atom, an alkaline earth metal atom, or alkyl of 1-4 carbon atoms,

X_{15} is hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, and

A_1 is phenyl substituted in the para-position by isobutyl, cyclohexyl, alkoxy, or 1-pyrrolinyl and, optionally substituted additionally in the meta-position by fluorine or chlorine, or phenyl substituted in the meta-position by benzoyl or phenoxy, or phenyl substituted in the ortho-position by 2,4-dichlorophenoxy or 2,6-dichlorophenylamino;

diphosphonic acid derivatives of the sturcture

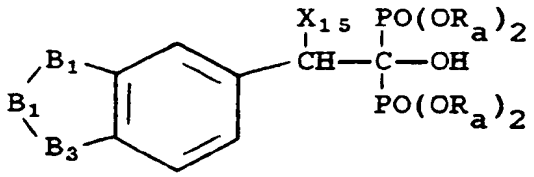


wherein R_a is as defined above;

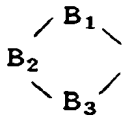
R_b is cyclohexyl or cyclopentylmethyl; and

A_2 is hydrogen or chlorine;

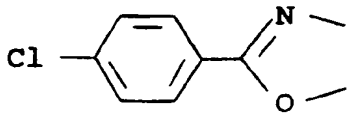
diphosphonic acid derivatives of the formula



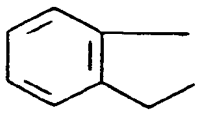
wherein R_a and X_{15} are as defined above, and

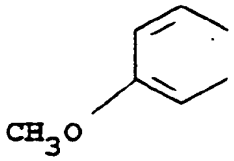


is

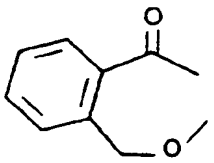


;



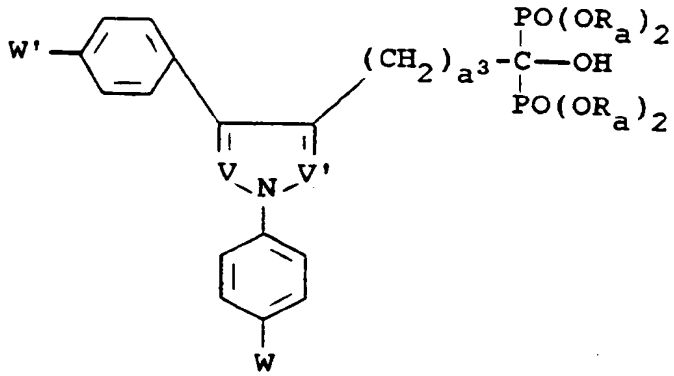


or



;

diphosphonic acid derivatives of the formula



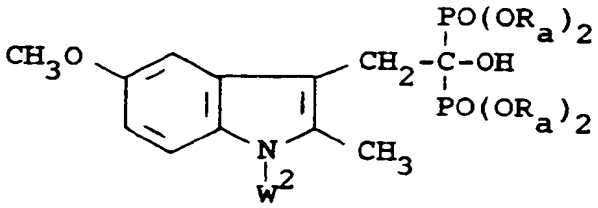
wherein a^3 is 1, 2 or 3,

R_a is as defined above,

W and W' are identical or different, and each is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine, and

one of V and V' is nitrogen and the other is a methyne residue optionally substituted by

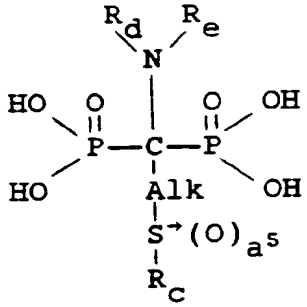
a phenyl group; and diphosphonic acid derivatives of the formula



wherein R_a is as defined above, and

W^2 is p-chlorobenzoyl or cinnamoyl; or throughout, when R_a is H, a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an organic base;

d^4) methylenediphosphonic acids as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,876,247 (Sanofi) (disclosed for use as an antirheumatic) having the formula



wherein R_c represents:

a C_1-C_6 alkyl group,

a C_5-C_7 cycloalkyl group,

a phenyl group optionally monosubstituted or poly-substituted by a halogen, a C_1-C_6 alkyl group or a trifluoromethyl group, or

a 5-membered or 6-membered heterocycle containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen and sulfur,

Alk denotes a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkylene group,

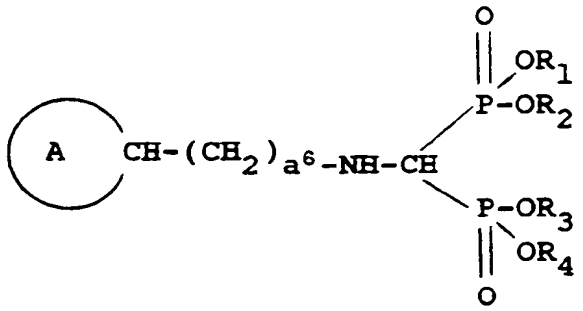
R_d represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 alkyl group or a -$CONH_2$ group,

R_e represents hydrogen, a C_1-C_6 alkyl group, a benzyl group or a phenyl group optionally substituted by chlorine or methyl groups; or alternatively

R_d and R_e taken together, represent a $(CH_2)_{a^4}$ group, in which a^4 is 4 or 5, and

a^5 represents 0 or the integer 1 or 2.

e^4) aminomethylene-bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 337706A (Yamanouchi Pharm) (disclosed for use in inhibiting bone resportion, and for its anti-inflammatory, antirheumatic and analgesic activities) having the structure

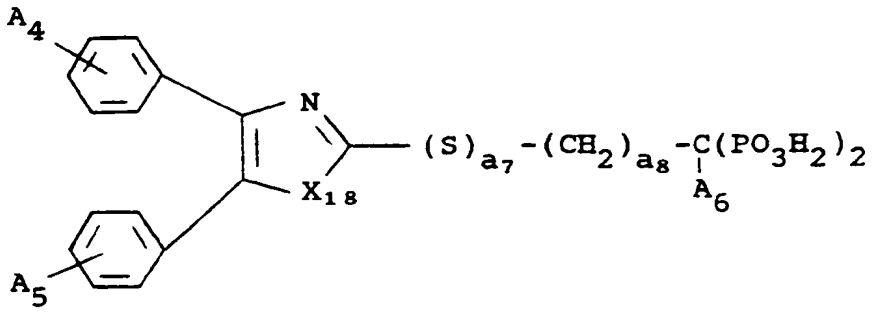


wherein R_1-R_4 is H or 1-5C alkyl;

a^6 is 0-4;

Ring A is 5-8-cycloalkenyl, bicycloheptyl, bicycloheptenyl or 4-7C saturated heterocyclyl containing O, S, SO or SO_2;

f^4) diphenylazolediphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 210445 (Yamanouchi Pharm) (disclosed for use as anti-inflammatory, antipyretic and analgesic agents) having the structure



wherein A_4 and A_5 are the same or different and are H, OH, lower alkoxy or halogen;

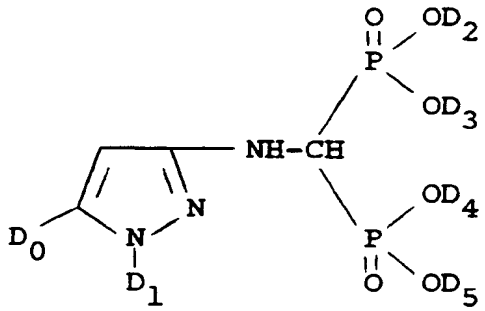
A_6 is H or OH:

X_{18} is O, S or NH;

a_7 is 0 or 1;

A_8 is 0 or an integer of 1-6;

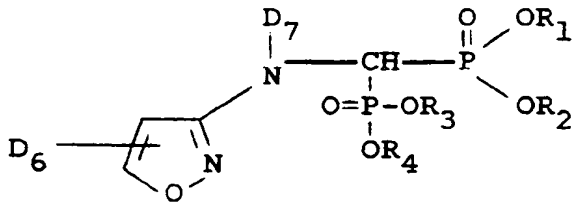
g^4) (pyrazolylamino)methylene-bis-(phosphonic acids) as disclosed in Japanese Patent 086857 (Yamanouchi Pharm) (disclosed for use as bone resorption inhibitors) having the formula



(wherein D_0 is H or alkyl;

D_1 to D_5 is H or lower alkyl);

h^4) isoxazolyl-containing bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 282320A (Yamanouchi Pharm) (disclosed for use as bone resorption inhibitors and in arthritis) having the formula



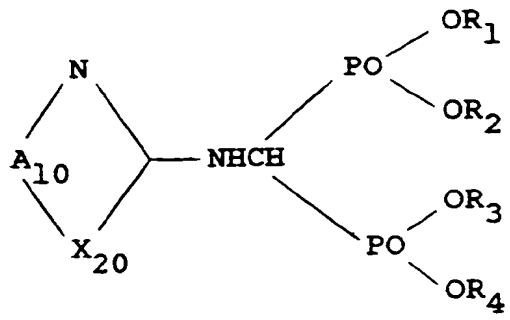
wherein D_6 is H, 1-10C alkyl, 3-10C cycloalkyl, phenyl, 2-10C alkenyl (optionally substituted by phenyl) or phenyl(1-5C)alkyl (optionally ring-substituted by a 1-5C alkoxy);

D_7 is H or 2-6C alkanoyl; and

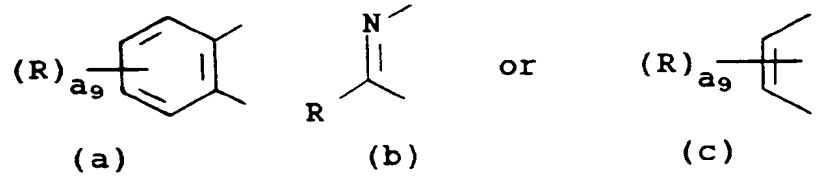
R_1-R_4 is H or 1-5C alkyl;

provided that when D_6 is methyl, ethyl, isopropyl or tert-butyl, at least one of D_7, R_1, R_2, R_3 or R_4 is other than H;

i⁴) azole-amino methylene bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 282309A (Yamanouchi Pharm) (disclosed for use as bone resorption inhibitors) having the sturcture



wherein A_{10}= a group of formula (a)-(C):



(a) (b) (c)

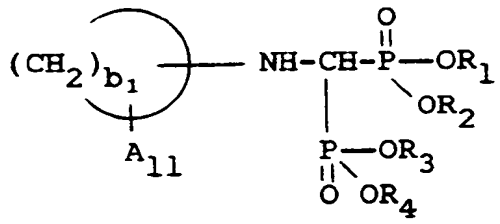
R is H, halogen, 1-5C alkyl or phenyl;

a_9 is 1 or 2;

X_{20} is O, S or NH;

R_1-R_4 is H or 1-5C alkyl;

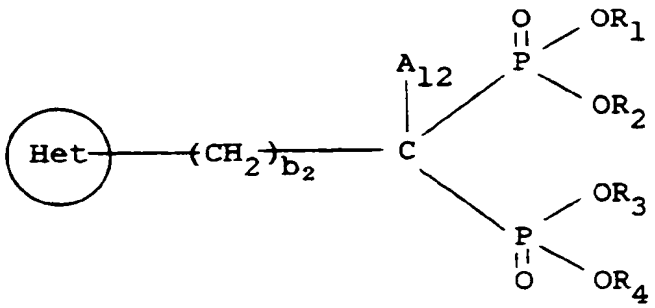
j⁴) cycloalkyl:amino-methylene-bis:phosphonic acids having the formula



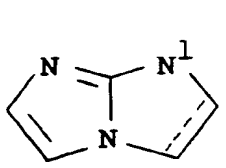
wherein A_{11} and R_1 - R_4 are H or 1-5C alkyl;

b_1 is 3-10; provided that A_{11} is 1-5C alkyl when R_1 - R_4 is H and b_1 is 5 or 6;

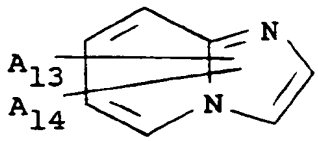
k⁴) heterocyclic bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in EP 354806A (Yamanouchi Pharm) (disclosed for use in bone resorption) having the formula



wherein ring Het is a group of formula (A) or (B):



(A)



(B)

the dotted line represents optionally double bond;

A_{13}, A_{14} are independently H, 1-5C alkyl, halogen or OH;

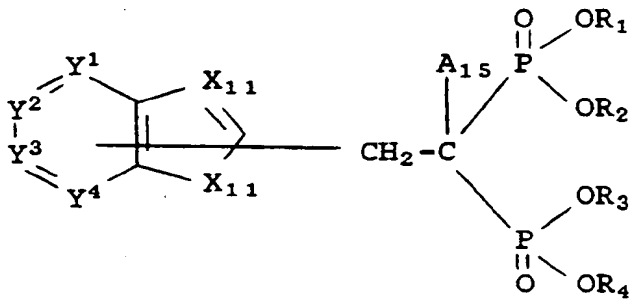
A_{12} is H or OH;

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 are H or 1-5C alkyl;

b_2 is 0 or 1; provided that b_2 is 1 when ring Het is (A); and

A_{12} is OH when ring Het is (B).

l[4]) imidazo- or pyrrolo-pyridine substituted bisphosphonic acids as disclosed in Japanese Patent 200462 (Yamanouchi Pharm) (disclosed for use as bone resorption inhibitors) having the structure



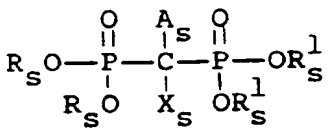
wherein A_{15} is H or OH;

R_1-R_4 is H or lower alkyl;

X_{11} is both N or one is N and the other is CH;

one of Y^1-Y^4 is N and the rest are CH.

m[4]) bisphosphonate compounds as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,309,364 and 4,416,877 and UK Patent 2,079,285A, all to Bentzen et al and assigned to Symphar S.A. (hereinafter referred to as the Symphar patents) of the formula



wherein R_s and R_s^1 are the same or different and are H, methyl or ethyl, wherein at most only one of R_s and R_s^1 is methyl or ethyl;

X_s is H, OH, $OCOCH_3$ or NH_2;

A_s is t-butyl; Y_s-C_6H_4-; Y_s-C_6H_4-O-$C(CH_3)_2$-; Y_s-C_6H_4-$C(CH_3)_2$-; Y_s-C_6H_4-CO-C_6H_4; Y_s-$C_6H_4(CH_2)_{ns}$- and Y_s-C_6H_4-O-$(CH_2)_{ns}$-

where ns is 1 to 6 and

Y_s is H, CH_3, halogen, OC_{1-20} alkyl.

It will be appreciated that C_6H_4 in the above groups represents a phenylene group.

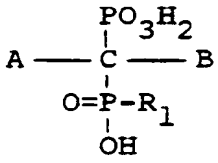
Examples of compounds of the Symphar type suitable for use in the method of the invention include

tetramethyl 1(p-chlorophenyl)methane-1-hydroxy 1,1-diphosphonate,
tetramethyl 2,2-dimethyl 2-(p-chlorophenoxy)ethane 1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate,
tetramethyl 1-[4(4'-chlorobenzoyl)phenyl]methane 1-hydroxy 1,1-diphosphonate,
dimethyl 1[(dimethoxyphosphinyl)p-chlorobenzyl]phosphate,
dimethyl [1(dimethoxyphosphinyl) 2,2-dimethyl 2-phenyl]-ethyl phosphate,
dimethyl [1(dimethoxyphosphinyl)2,2-dimethyl 2(p-chlorophenyl] ethyl phosphate,
tetramethyl 4-phenylbutylidene, 1,1-diphosphonate.

More preferred are compounds of formula I wherein one of R^5 and R^6 is a lipophilic group which is optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl or optionally substituted aryl, and the other of R^5 and R^6 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or halogen.

The methylene phosphonoalkylphosphinate esters also referred to as a phosphonomethylphosphinate and/or salt thereof as disclosed in Application No. 92108073.5 suitable for use herein are described in European Patent Application 0298553Al (Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), published January 11, 1989, (hereinafter referred to as EP 0298553).

The EP 0298553 compounds useful in the method of the invention are methylene phosphonoalkylphosphinic acids, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof, having the general structure:



(1)

wherein R_1 is selected from hydrogen, substituted alkyl and unsubstituted alkyl. A and B are independent substituent moieties, at least one of which is a lipophilic group.

The term "lipophilic group" is as defined hereinbefore.

The term "alkyl" as used herein, unless otherwise specified, means chemically-stable carbon-containing chains which may be straight, branched, or cyclic; and further which may be saturated, monounsaturated (e.g., one double bond; one triple bond), or polyunsaturated (e.g. two double bonds; two triple bonds; three double bonds; one double and one triple bond). Preferred alkyl have from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms. "Cycloalkyls" as used herein, having from about 3 to about 10 carbon atoms are preferred. Also preferred are straight chain alkyl, saturated alkyl or monounsaturated alkyl.

Alkyl is preferably unsubstituted but may be substituted. Preferred substituent groups for alkyl are as follows: halogen, nitro, cyano, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, amino substituted with one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl group, amino substituted independently with one alkyl group and one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; ether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thiol, and the thiol ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thioether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl

group, and the sulfoxide and sulfone derivatives thereof, $-SO_3H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts therof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups, $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups, PO_3H_2, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups, $-(R^8)PO_2H$ (where R^8 is hydrogen or unsubstituted lower alkyl), the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups, aldehyde, ketone having an alkyl group, carbamate, unsubstituted or substituted with one or two alkyl groups, peptidyl, and combinations thereof.

The term "lower alkyl" as used herein, unless otherwise specified, means unsubstituted alkyl having from 1 to about 6 carbon atoms which may be saturated or unsaturated. Preferred lower alkyl are saturated and have from one to about 4 carbon atoms. For lower alkyl groups specified herein as substituted, preferred substituents are the same as for alkyl hereinabove.

The term "heterocycle" as used herein, unless otherwise specified, means chemically-stable non-aromatic rings, including fused non-aromatic rings, having from about 5 to about 20 atoms, comprising at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus and oxygen. Preferred are 5 and 6 membered ring heterocycles which comprise from about 1 to about 3 heteroatoms. More preferred are 5 and 6 membered ring heterocycles which comprise one or two heteroatoms (especially nitrogen heteroatoms). Most preferred are the 6 membered ring heterocycles comprising one nitrogen atom, especially piperidinyl and piperidinylidene heterocycles. Heterocycles may be unsubstituted or substituted, saturated or unsaturated. Preferred heterocycles are unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl; halogen; nitro; cyano; heterocycle; aryl; heteroaryl; unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; amino substituted with one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl group; amino substituted independently with one alkyl group and one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; ether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thio, and the thiol ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thioether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, and the sulfoxide and sulfone derivatives thereof; $-SO_3H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; PO_3H_2, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; $-(R^8)PO_2H$ (where R^8 is hydrogen or unsubstituted lower alkyl), the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; aldehyde; ketone having an alkyl group; carbamate, unsubstituted or substituted with one or two alkyl groups; peptidyl, and combinations thereof.

The term "aryl", as used herein, unless otherwise specified, mean chemically-stable aromatic rings, including fused aromatic rings, having from about 6 to about 20 carbon atoms. Preferred aryl are phenyl or naphthyl, most preferred is phenyl. Aryls may be unsubstituted or substituted. Preferred aryls are unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl; halogen; nitro; cyano; heterocycle; aryl; heteroaryl, unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; amino substituted with one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group and the amide thereof derived from a caroxylic acid of an alkyl group; amino substituted independently with one alkyl group and one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; ether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thiol, and the thiol ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thioether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, and the sulfoxide and sulfone derivatives thereof; $-SO_3H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; PO_3H_2, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; $-(R^8)PO_2H$ (where R^8 is hydrogen or unsubstituted lower alkyl), the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl

group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; aldehyde; ketone having an alkyl group; carbamate, unsubstituted or substituted with one or two alkyl groups; peptidyl; and combinations thereof.

The term "heteroaryl", as used herein, unless otherwise specified, means chemically-stable aromatic rings, including fused aromatic rings and fused aromatic and non-aromatic rings, having from about 5 to about 20 atoms, comprising at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus and oxygen. Preferred are 5 and 6 membered ring heteroaryls which comprise from about 1 to about 3 heteroatoms. More preferred are 5 and 6 membered ring heteroaryls which comprise one or two heteroatoms (especially nitrogen heteroatoms). Most preferred heteroaryl is pyridinyl. Heteroaryls may be unsubstituted or substituted. Preferred heteroaryls are unsubstituted or substituted with alkyl; halogen; nitro; cyano; heterocycle; aryl; heteroaryl; unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; amino substituted with one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl group; amino substituted independently with one alkyl group and one alkyl heterocyle, aryl or heteroaryl group; hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; ether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thiol, and the thiol ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thioether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, and the sulfoxide and sulfone derivatives thereof; $-SO_3H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol or an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; PO_3H_2, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; $-(R^8)PO_2H$ (where R^8 is hydrogen or unsubstituted lower alkyl), the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; aldehyde; ketone having an alkyl group; carbamate, unsubstituted or substituted with one or two alkyl groups; peptidyl; and combinations threreof.

The term "substituent group", as used herein, means hydrogen or an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, unless otherwise specified.

R_1 is a moiety selected from hydrogen, and alkyl. Preferred R_1 is unsubstituted alkyl, especially lower alkyl. Preferred substituents on the R_1 alkyl, when substituted, include halogen, alkoxy, unsubstituted and substituted phenyl, hydroxy, carboxy, and chemically-stable combinations thereof.

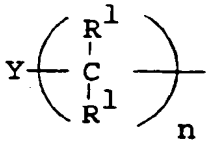
A is a moiety selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; halogen; nitro; alkyl; heterocycle; aryl; heteroaryl; unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a substituent group; amino substituted with one substituent group, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a substituent group; amino substituted independently with one alkyl group and one substituent group; hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a substituent group; ether having a substituent group; thiol, and the thiol ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a substituent group; thioether having a substituent group, and the sulfoxide and sulfone derivative thereof; $-SO_3H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a substituent group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a substitutent group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; aldehyde; ketone having a substituent group; carbamate, unsubstituted or substituted with one or two alkyl groups; pepetides having from about one to about 100 amino acid moieties; or the A and B moieties are covalently linked to form a ring having from 3 to about 7 atoms with from 0 to about 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus and oxygen, the ring being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more of the above substituents of A; or the A and B moieties are replaced by an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl moiety attached to the geminal carbon by a double bond.

Examples of A moieties include

(1) hydrogen;

(2) halogen; more preferred are F or Cl;

(3) substituted and unsubstituted alkyl having the general structure:



(2)

wherein n is an integer from 1 to about 10, preferably from 1 to about 5, more preferably n = 1 or 2, and most preferably n = 1; each R^1 is independently selected to achieve chemically-stable moieties from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, unsubstituted amino or the amido thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, amino substituted with one lower alkyl group or the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, amino substituted independently with two lower alkyl groups, hydroxy or the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, $-CO_2H$ or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof or the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a lower alkyl group or the unsubstituted amide thereof or the amide thereof substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups, ether having a lower alkyl group, $-PO_3H_2$ or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and nitro, or two R^1's on the same carbon atom are =O or $=NR^9$ (where R^9 is lower alkyl or may be hydrogen when there is another nitrogen atom attached to the same carbon atom as the $=NR^9$ moiety), or two R^1's on adjacent carbon atoms may be replaced by an additional bond between the carbon atoms; or an R^1 on the first carbon atom (from the right side of structure (2) hereinabove) and B (see structure (1) hereinabove) may be replaced by an additional bond; and Y is a substituent of alkyl as defined hereinbefore; (for the sake of chemical stability of the compounds used in the present invention, R^1 cannot be such that there is a halogen and an oxygen or sulfur or nitrogen singly bonded to the same carbon atom or such that two of an oxygen or sulfur or nitrogen are singly bonded to the same carbon atom);

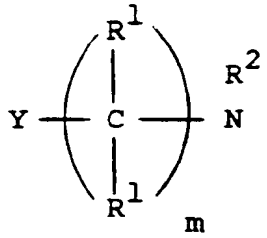
(4) Cycloalkyl having from about 4 to about 10 carbon atoms; more preferred are cycloalkyl having 5 or 6 carbon atoms;

(5) Heterocycle having 5 or 6 atoms in the ring; more preferred are heterocycles having one or two nitrogen atoms in the ring, more preferred still are heterocycles having one nitrogen atom in the ring; most preferred are unsubstituted or substituted piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl;

(6) unsubstituted and substituted phenyl; naphthyl;

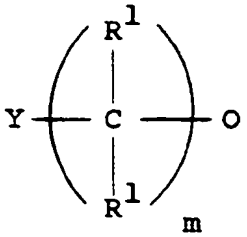
(7) Unsubstituted and substituted 5 and 6 membered ring heteroaryls having one or two heteroatoms (especially nitrogen heteroatoms); most preferred is pyridinyl;

(8) amine-containing moiety having the general structure:



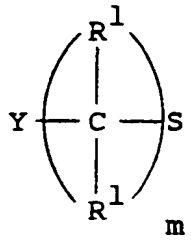
wherein m is an integer from 0 to about 10, preferably from 0 to about 5, more preferably 0 or 1, and most preferably m = 0; R^1 and Y are as described hereinbefore; and R^2 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or acyl derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl;

(9) oxygen-containing moiety having the general structure:



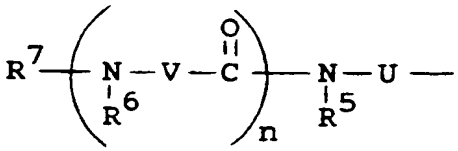
wherein m is an integer from 0 to about 10, preferably from 0 to about 5, more preferably 0 or 1, and most preferably m = 0; and R^1 and Y are as described hereinbefore; and

(10) sulfur-containing moiety having the general strucutre:

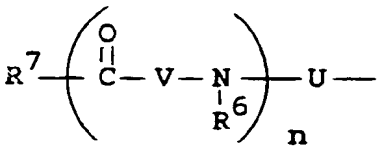


wherein m is an integer from 0 to about 10, preferably from 0 to about 5, more preferably 0 or 1, and most preferably m = 0; and R^1 and Y are as described hereinbefore;

(11) peptide-containing moiety having the general structure:



or



wherein n is an integer from 1 to about 100, preferably from 1 to about 6; R^5, each R^6 and R^7 are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl, preferably R^5, each R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen; U and each V are independently unsubstituted or substituted lower alkyl (substituted such that moiety is chemically-stable), or R^5 and U or each R^6 and V, together with the included nitrogen atom to which they are bound, may form a five- or six-membered ring which is unsubstituted or substituted; or U may be nil; preferably U and each V or rings in which they are incorporated are moieties found in naturally-occurring amino acid moieties, i.e., lysine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, phenylalanine, arginine, histidine, methionine, alanine, aspartic acid, threonine, proline, glycine, serine, tyrosine, tryptophan, glutamine and cysteine.

Preferred A moieties of the present invention are optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, and optionally substituted aryl.

B is a moiety selected from hydrogen; halogen; unsubstituted and substituted lower alkyl; unsubstituted and substituted cycloalkyl having from about 3 to about 7 atoms in the ring; unsubstituted and substituted heterocycle having from about 3 to about 7 atoms in the ring; unsubstituted and substituted phenyl; hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group; thiol; unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group; amino substituted with one lower alkyl group, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group; amino substituted independently with two lower alkyl groups; $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a lower alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups.

For the sake of chemical stability for the compounds of the present invention, it is preferred that the A and B moieties do not both have heteroatoms (N, O or S), or a heteroatom and a halogen, bonded to the methylene phosphonoalkylphosphinate moiety (i.e., the carbon atom geminally substituted with the phosphorus atoms). Thus, when the A moiety has an oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, or halogen atom bonded to the phosphorus-substituted methylene carbon, then B is selected from hydrogen; unsubstituted or substituted lower alkyl, cycloalkyl,

heterocycle (where a carbon atom of the heterocycle is bonded to the geminal carbon atoms), or phenyl; $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a lower alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups.

Preferred B is selected from hydrogen, halogen, unsubstituted and substituted lower alkyl, unsubstituted and substituted phenyl, unsubstituted and substituted benzyl, hydroxy and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, thiol, unsubstituted amino and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, amino substituted with one lower alkyl group and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, amino substituted independently with two lower alkyl groups, and $-CO_2H$, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a lower alkyl group and the unsubstituted amide thereof or the amide thereof substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups.

The method of the invention may also be carried out employing the bisphosphonate and/or methylene phosphonoalkylphosphinate in combination with an antihyperlipoproteinemic agent such as probucol and/or with one or more serum cholesterol lowering agents such as Lopid (gemfibrozil), fibric acid derivatives such as bezafibrate, bile acid sequestrants such as cholestyramine, colestipol, polidexide (DEAE-Sephadex) as well as clofibrate, nicotinic acid and its derivatives, neomycin, p-aminosalicyclic acid, bezafibrate and the like and/or one or more HMG CoA reductase inhibitors such as lovastatin, pravastatin, velostatin or simvastatin.

The above compounds to be employed in combination with the protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor will be used in amounts as indicated in the Physicians' Desk Reference (PDR).

The compounds employed in the methods of the invention may also be employed with sodium lauryl sulfate or other pharmaceutically acceptable detergents to enhance oral bioavailability of such compounds.

In carrying out the method of the invention, a pharmaceutical composition will be employed containing at least one bisphosphonate and/or one methylene phosphonoalkylphosphinate protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor in association with a pharmaceutical vehicle or diluent. The pharmaceutical compostion can be formulated employing conventional solid or liquid vehicles or diluents and pharmaceutical additives of a type appropriate to the mode of desired administration. The compounds can be administered to mammalian species including humans, monkeys, dogs, etc. by an oral route, for example, in the form of tablets, capsules, granules or powders, or they can be administered by a parenteral route in the form of injectable preparations. The dose for adults is preferably between 200 and 2,000 mg per day, which can be administered in a single dose or in the form of individual doses from 1-4 times per day.

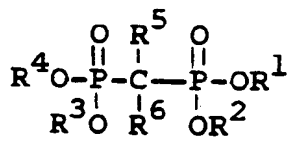
A typical capsule for oral administration contains protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor (250 mg), lactose (75 mg) and magnesium stearate (15 mg). The mixture is passed through a 60 mesh sieve and packed into a No. 1 gelatin capsule.

A typical injectible preparation is produced by asceptically placing 250 mg of sterile protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor into a vial, asceptically freeze-drying and sealing. For use, the contents of the vial are mixed with 2 ml of physiological saline, to produce an injectible preparation.

Claims

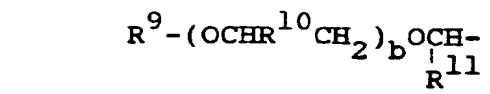
1. Use of a bisphosphonate protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor wherein the phosphonates are bridged by a methylene group, and which includes at least one lipophilic group attached to the methylene group which contains at least six carbons, for the manufacture of a medicament for treating and/or preventing ras-related tumors by blocking the prenylation of ras oncogene products.

2. Use of a bisphosphonate compound having the structure

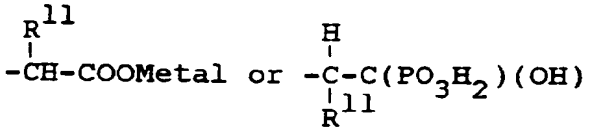


wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are the same or different and are H, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, ammonium, alkali metal or a prodrug ester, wherein at least one of R^5 and R^6 is a hydrocarbyl group having at least 6 carbons (which is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, or arylalkenyl); heterocyclic (which is succinimdyl, pyridyl, quinalyl, morpholino, furanyl, indolyl, picolinyl, thiophene, imidazole, oxazole, isoxazole, thiazole, pyridine, 1,2,3-triazole, 1,2,4-triazole, benzimidazole, tetrahydrofuranyl, pyrro-

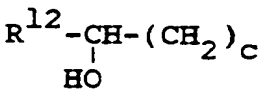
lidino, piperidino, 5-membered heteroarylmethyl containing 2 to 4 N atoms or 1-2 N atoms plus an O or S atom); heterocyclicalkyl (wherein heterocyclic is as defined above such as 1-(decahydroquinolin-3-yl)methane); amino; alkylamino; dialkylamino; arylalkylaminoalkyl; ethylcarbonyloxymethylamino; cycloalkyl(alkyl)amino; alkenylamino, cycloalkylamino, aminocycloalkyl; aminocycloalkylalkyl; N-hydroxy-N-ethylamino; acetylamino; aminoalkyloxyalkyl; (benzo- or cyclohexeno-fused) 5 membered heteroaryl containing 2-4 N atoms or 1-2 Natoms plus an O or S atom; R^8-X-$(CH_2)_a$- (wherein R^8 is H, alkyl, or a nitrogen containing 6-membered aromatic ring which is pyridyl, indanyl, hexahydroindanyl or picolyl; X is O, NH or a single bond and a is 0 to 7);



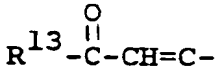
(wherein R^9 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, phenylalkyl or naphthylalkyl),



(wherein R^{10} and and R^{11} are the same or different and are H or methyl, b is 1 to 20));



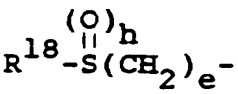
(wherein R^{12} is H, phenyl or phenyl substituted with halogen, alkyl or hydroxy and c is 0 to 9);



(wherein R^{13} is tert-alkyl ($CR^{14}R^{15}R^{16}$ wherein R^{14} and R^{15} are independently C_1-C_3 alkyl and R^{16} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl), cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, or substituted cycloalkyl, substituted aryl or substituted heteroaryl wherein the substituent is halogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, alkoxy or dialkylamino);

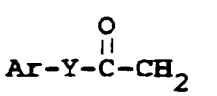
4-Cl-C_6H_5-S-CH_2; aryloxy;

R^{17}-$(QCH_2CH_2)_dO$- (wherein R^{17} is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl, or each of the above R^{17} groups optionally substituted with C_1-C_4 alkyl, amino, alkylamino, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, phenoxy, mercapto, alkylthio, phenylthio, halogen or trifluoromethyl, Q is O or S and d is 0, 1 or 2);



(wherein e is 0 to 10, h is 0, 1 or 2, R^{18} is H, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkyl, each optionally substituted with OH, SH, halogen, alkoxycarbonyl or NZ_1Z_2, phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, lower alkyl, alkoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxyl, CO_2alkyl, -$CONZ_1Z_2$, -$CSNZ_1Z_2$, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic radical containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms, which are N or S, which may or may not be fused to a benzene ring, Z_1 and Z_2 are independently H or lower alkyl);

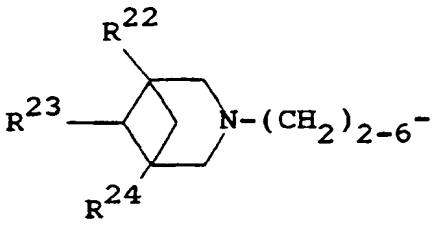
thiol; phenylthio; chlorophenylthio; 4-thiomorpholinyl;



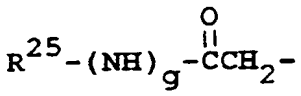
(wherein Ar is aryl, pyrrolyl or aryl optionally substituted with C_1-C_4alkyl, alkoxy, halo (F, Cl), naphthyl, biphenyl or thienyl and Y is NH or a single bond);

$R^{19}SCH_2$- (wherein R^{19} is alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl);

A-$(CH_2)_r$-NH- (wherein A is C_5-C_8 cycloalkenyl, bicycloheptyl, bicycloheptenyl, saturated C_4-C_7 heterocycle containing O,S,SO or SO_2);



(wherein R^{22} is H, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, R^{23} is H, C_1-C_{20}alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, halo, carboxyl, R^{24} is H, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, alkoxy);

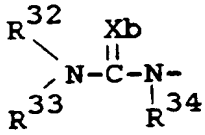


(wherein R^{25} is (alkyl-substituted)pyrrolyl or phenyl and g is 0 or 1);

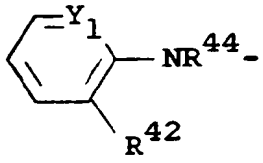
aromatic-substituted mono- or biazacyclylalkyl (alkyl group bonds with the N in the heterocycle) (such as 3-(4-phenylpiperidino)propyl);

R^{31}-Ax-CO-CH_2-

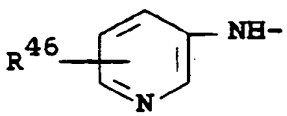
(wherein Ax is phenyl, naphthyl, mono- or bicyclic-N-containing heterocycle and R^{31} is H, halo, lower alkyl or lower alkoxy);



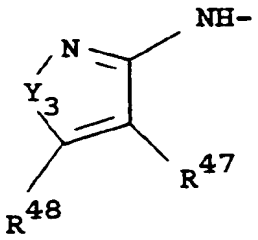
(wherein R^{32} is aryl, aralkyl, alkyl, R^{33} is H or aryl, Xb is O or S, and R^{34} is H or alkyl);



(wherein R^{42} is H, alkyl or halo, Y_1 is N, NO, or $NR^{43}Y_2$ wherein R^{43} is alkyl and Y_2 is halo; and R^{44} is H or aliphatic acyl);



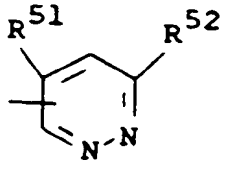
(wherein R^{46} is H, halo or alkyl);

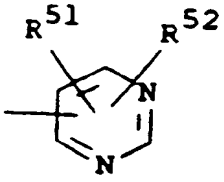


(wherein Y_3 is O or NH, R^{47} is H, alkyl or halo, and R^{48} is H or alkyl);

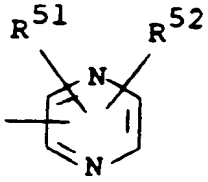
R^{50} -NH-

(wherein R^{50} is

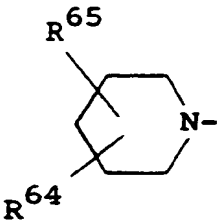




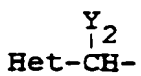
or



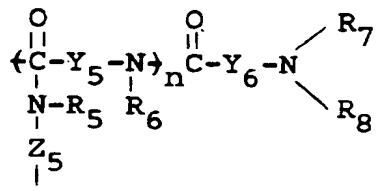
wherein R^{51} and R^{52} are H, halo, alkyl or hydroxy);



(wherein R^{64} is alkyl and R^{65} is H or alkyl;



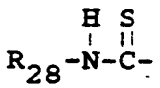
wherein Het is a heteroaromatic 5-membered ring with 2 or 3 heteroatoms, optionally partially hydrogenated and optionally substituted by one or more alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, halo or amino, with 2 adjacent alkyl optionally together forming a ring (Het cannot be pyrazole), and Y_2 is H or lower alkyl);



(wherein Y_4 is H or OH, R_5-R_8 are independently H or lower alkyl, whereby R_7 and Y_6 or R_6 and Y_5 or R_5 and Z_5, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached can form a 5- or 6-membered ring, Y_6 and Y_5 which can be the same or different are C_1-C_6 alkylene chains optionally substituted by aromatic or heteroaromatic radicals, Z_5 is C_1 to C_6 alkylene which can include heteroatoms and optionally substituted by aromatic or heteroaromatic, n is 0, 1 or 2;

R_{27}-Z_9-

(wherein R_{27} is aryl or heterocyclyl both optionally substituted by one or more of lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, halo(lower)alkyl, acyl, acylamino or halo, or R_{27} is lower alkyl substituted by heterocyclyl which is optionally substituted by acyl); R_{27}-Z_9 is R_{27}-NHC(=X_9), R_{27}-C(=O)NH-, R_{27}-SO_2-NH- (wherein X_9 is O or S);



(wherein R_{28} is phenyl, pyridyl or quinolyl substituted by lower alkylsulphonylamino, halo-lower alkylsulphonylamino, arylsulphonylamino and mono- or di-lower alkylamino);

R_{29}-CO-[-$R_{30}(CH_2)_o$CO-]$_p$-NH-

(wherein R_{29}-CO- is a residue of a pharmaceutically active compound R_{29}-COOH, wherein R_{29} is an anti-inflamatory agent, or antioncotic agent or hormone ,

R_{30} is -NH- or -O-

p is 0 or 1;

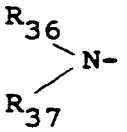
o is 1-10);

R_{33}-$(CH_2)_q$-

(wherein R_{33} is an N-bonded azabicycloalkyl group with 3 to 8-membered rings and q is 2 to 4);

R_{34}-$(CH_2)_r$-

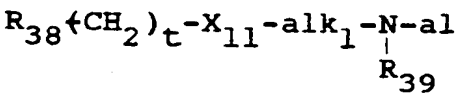
(wherein R_{34} is an N-bonded, aryl-substituted mono- or diazacycloaliphatic group);



(wherein R_{36} is 5 membered heteroaryl with 2-4 N or with 1-2 N plus an O or S atom, optionally fused to a benzo or cyclohexeno ring;

R_{36} can be C substituted by lower alkyl, phenyl (optionally substituted by lower alkyl, alkoxy and/or halo), lower alkoxy, OH, di(lower alkyl)amino, lower alkylthio and/or halo, and/or N substituted by lower alkyl or phenyl (lower) alkyl (optionally substituted by lower alkyl, lower alkoxy and/or halo);

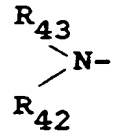
R_{37} is H or lower alkyl; provided R_{37} is not H if R_{36} is optionally substituted alkyl and/or halo substituted 3-pyrazolyl or 3-isoxazolyl);



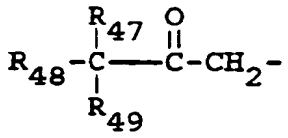
(wherein R_{38} is aromatic residue;

t is 0-3;

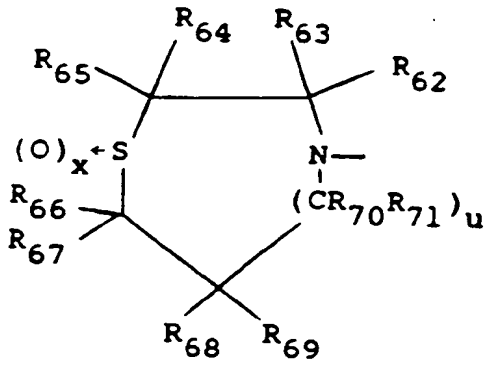
X_{11} is 0 S (optionally oxidized) or imino (optionally substituted by aliphatic group);
alk_1 and alk_2 are divalent aliphatic groups; R_{39} is H or monovalent aliphatic group);



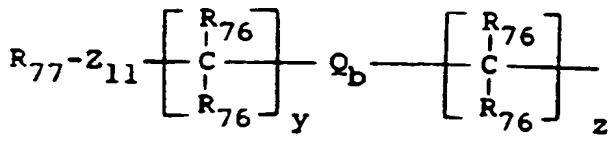
(wherein R_{42} and R_{43} are hydrogen, alkyl having one to 22 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl having five to six carbon atoms, phenyl alkylphenyl having seven to 18 carbon atoms, phenylalkyl having seven to 18 carbon atoms and together with the nitrogen atom, piperidino, pyrrolidino and morpholino);



(wherein R_{47} is optionally branched C_1-C_8alkyl,
R_{48} and R_{49} are each methyl or ethyl, and
M is H or a cation of a water-soluble base);

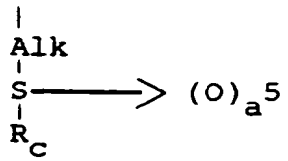


(wherein R_{62}-R_{71} is H, straight, branched or alicyclic 1-10C hydrocarbyl, aryl or aryl-(1-4C)-alkyl;
x is 0 or 1;
u is 0, 1 or 2;
or R_{62} and R_{64} may complete a 5- to 7-membered saturated aliphatic ring optionally substituted by 1 or more alkyl groups);



(wherein Z_{11} is an N-containing 6-membered ring heterocycle moiety selected from piperidinyl, diazinyl or triazinyl;
Q_b is a covalent bond, O, S or NR_{76};
y, z, and y + z are integers of 0-10;
R_{76} is H, or C_1-C_3alkyl;
R_{77} is one or more substituted selected from H, halogen, 1-3C alkyl, unsubstituted amino and its amide derived from a 1-3C carboxylic acid, mono(1-3C alkyl) amino and its amide derived from a 1-3C carboxylic acid, di(1-3C alkyl)amino, tri(1-3C alkyl) ammonium, hydroxy or its ester derived from a 1-3C

carboxylic acid, ether having 1-3C, CO_2H and its salts and esters derived from 1-3C alcohols, its amide optionally substituted with one or two 1-3C alkyl groups, and NO_2);



(wherein R_c represents:

C_1-C_6 alkyl group,

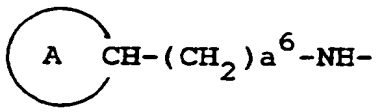
C_5-C_7 cycloalkyl group,

phenyl group optionally monosubstituted or polysubstituted by a halogen, a C_1-C_6 alkyl group or a trifluoromethyl group, or

5-membered or 6-membered heterocycle containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms chosen from nitrogen and sulfur,

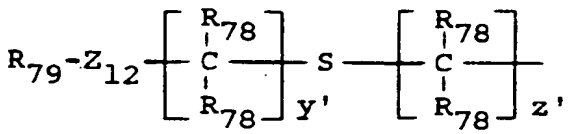
Alk denoted a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkylene group,

a^5 represents 0 or the integer 1 or 2);



(wherein a^6 is 0 to 4 and

Ring A is 5-8C cycloalkenyl, bicycloheptyl, bicycloheptenyl or 4-7C saturated heterocyclyl containing O, S, SO or SO_2);



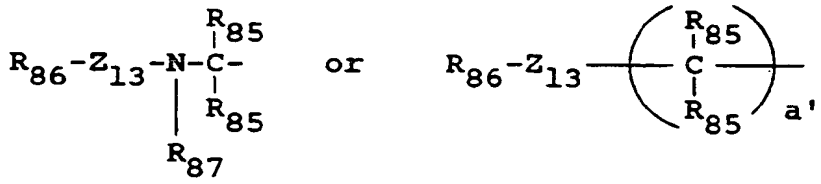
(wherein Z_{12} is a 6-membered aromatic ring containing ≧ 1 N atom(s); where:

the ring is optionally substituted by (optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated) 1-6C alkyl, (optionally substituted) aryl, (optionally substituted) benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, $CONH_2$, (optionally substituted) NH_2 and/or carboxylate, such as pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine ring;

R_{78} is H or (optionally substituted, optionally unsubstituted) 1-4C alkyl;

R_{79} is H, (optionally substituted, optionally unsubstituted) 1-6C alkyl, (optionally substituted) aryl, (optionally substituted) benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, $CONH_2$, (optionally substituted) amino or carboxylate,

y' + z' is 0 to 5);



(wherein Z_{13} is a pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine ring, optionally substituted by optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, oxo, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted NH_2 or carboxylate;

R_{86} is H or optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl;

R_{86} is one or more of H, optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally sub-

stituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, oxo, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted NH_2 or carboxylate;

R_{87} is H, optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl or acyl;

a' is 1-5);

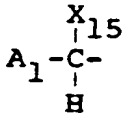
(wherein Z_{15} is a 6 membered aromatic ring containing one or more N atoms such as pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine or pyrazine, which ring may be substituted with one or more optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted amino or carboxylate);

R_{91} is H or optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl;

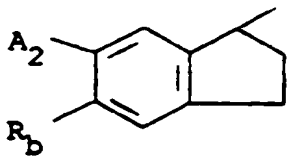
R_{92} is H or one or more substituents selected from optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, OH, halogen, carbonyl, alkoxy, NO_2, amido, optionally substituted amino or carboxylate;

R_{93} is H, optionally substituted, optionally unsaturated 1-4C alkyl or acyl;

a^2 is 1 to 5);



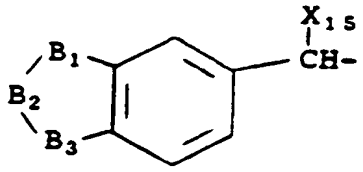
(wherein X_{15} is hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, and A_1 is phenyl substituted in the para-position by isobutyl, cyclohexyl, alkoxy, or 1-pyrrolinyl and, optionally substituted additionally in the meta-position by fluorine or chlorine, or phenyl substituted in the meta-position by benzoyl or phenoxy, or phenyl substituted in the ortho-position by 2,4-dichlorophenoxy or 2,6-dichlorophenylamino);



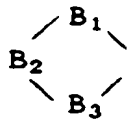
(wherein

R_b is cyclohexyl or cyclophenylmethyl; and

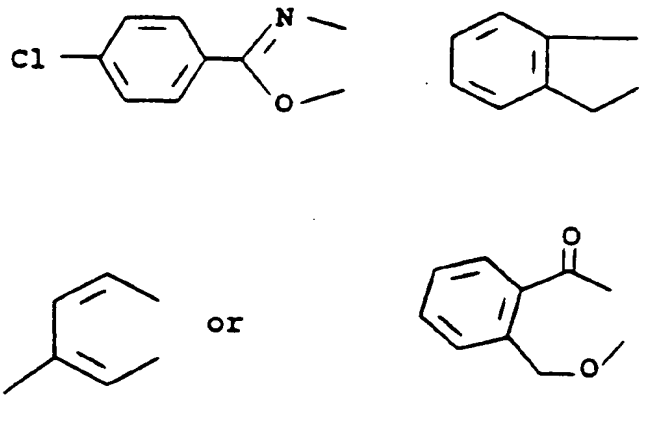
A_2 is hydrogen or chlorine);

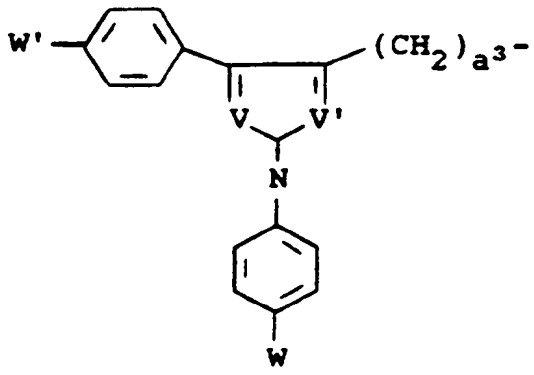


(wherein X_{15} is as defined above, and



is

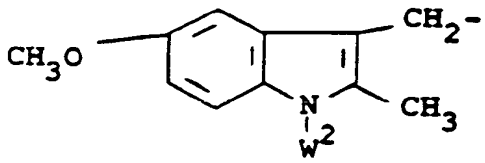




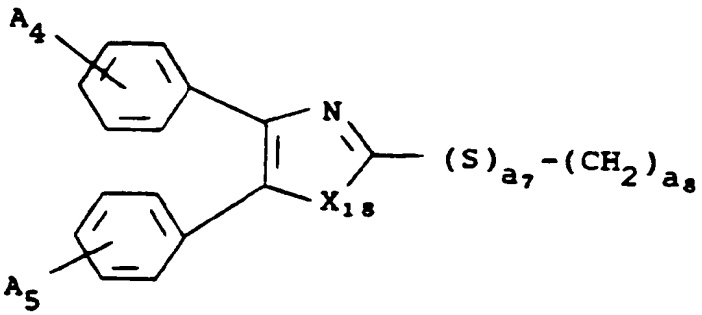
wherein a^3 is 1, 2 or 3;

W and W', are identical or different, and each is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine, and

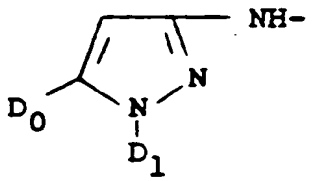
one of V and V' is nitrogen and the other is a methyne residue optionally substituted by a phenyl group, and



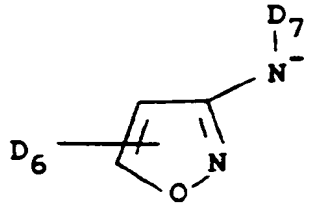
wherein W^2 is p-chlorobenzoyl or cinnamoyl);



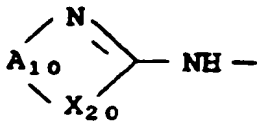
(wherein A_4 and A_5 are the same or different and are H, OH, lower alkoxy or halogen;
X_{15} is O, S or NH;
a_7 is 0 or 1;
a_8 is 0 or an integer of 1-6);



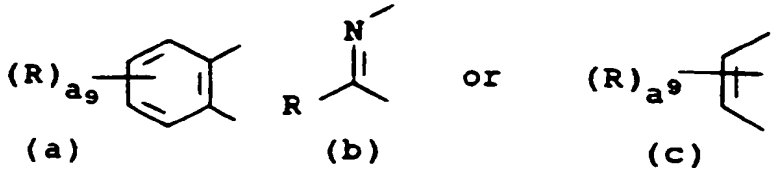
(wherein D_0 is H or alkyl;
D_1 is H or lower alkyl);



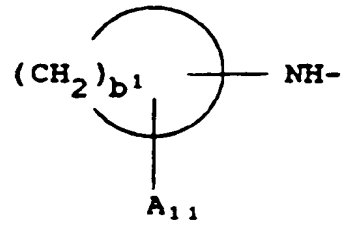
(wherein D_6 is H, 1-10C alkyl, 3-10C cycloalkyl, phenyl, 2-10C alkenyl (optionally substituted by phenyl) or phenyl(1-5C)alkyl (optionally ring-substituted by a 1-5C alkoxy);
D_7 is H or 2-6C alkanoyl);



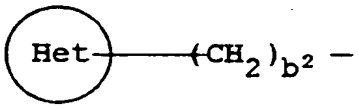
(wherein A_{10} is a group of formula (a)-(c):



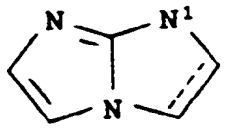
and X_{20} is O, S or NH);



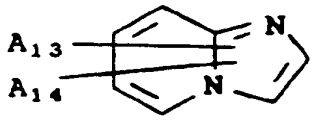
(wherein A_{11} is H or 1-5C alkyl;
b_1 is 3-10);



(wherein ring Het is a group of formula (A) or (B):

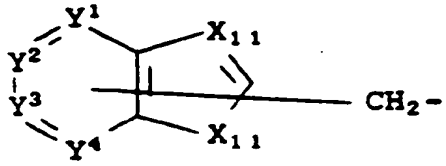


(A)



(B)

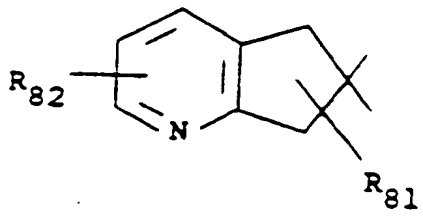
the dotted line represents an optional double bond; A_{13}, A_{14} are H, 1-5C alkyl, halogen or OH);

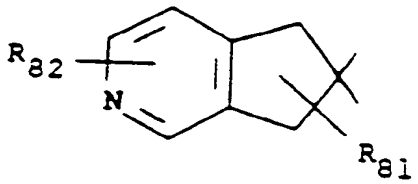


(wherein X_{11} are both N or one is N and the other is CH; one of Y^1-Y^4 is N and the rest is CH);

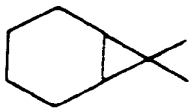
and the other of R^5 and R^6 is H, halogen, C_1-C_{30} alkyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, uriedo (NH_2CO-$N(R^{38})$- where R^{38} is H, alkyl, benzyl, phenyl optionally substituted with Cl or CH_3); alkenylamino, cycloalkylamino, aryloxy, pyridinium, guanidinium, ammonium, di-and tri-lower alkanolammonium, hydroxy, arylalkyl, alkoxy, alkylaryloxy, $-CH_2CO_2H$, $-CH_2PO_3H_2$, $-CH(PO_3H_2)(OH)$, $-CH_2CO_2C_2H_5$, $-CH_2CH(PO_3H_2)_2$, a hydrocarbyl radical as defined herein, a heterocyclic radical as defined herein, alkanoyl, an R^6 or R^5 radical as defined herein, a prodrug ester (such as (1-alkanoyloxy)alkyl, for example t-$C_4H_9CO_2CH_2$-, $CH_3CO_2CH_2$-);

at least one of R^5 and R^6 being a lipophilic group, or R^5 and R^6 can be joined to form a carbocyclic ring containing 3 to 12 carbons or a heterocyclic ring containing N, O and/or S atoms, such as of the formula



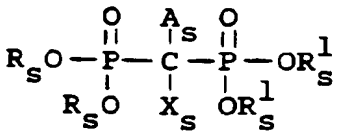


or



wherein R_{81} and R_{82} are each one or more substituents selected from H, optionally substituted satured or unsaturated 1-6C alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted benzyl, amido, OH, halogen, optionally substituted amino, amido, COOH, carbonyl, carboxylate, alkoxy and NO_2, for the manufacture of a medicament for treating and/or preventing ras-related tumors by blocking the farnesylation of ras oncogene products.

3. Use of a bisphosphonate squalene synthetase inhibitor having the formula



wherein R_s and $-R_s^1$ are the same or different and are H, methyl or ethyl, wherein at most only one of R_s and R_s^1 is methyl or ethyl;

X_s is H, OH, $OCOCH_3$ or NH_2;

A_s is t-butyl; Y_s-C_6H_4-; Y_s-C_6H_4-O-$C(CH_3)_2$-; Y_s-C_6H_4-$C(CH_3)_2$-; Y_s-C_6H_4-CO-C_6H_4; Y_s-C_6H_4-$(CH_2)_{ns}$- and Y_s-C_6H_4-O-$(CH_2)_{ns}$-

where ns is 1 to 6 and

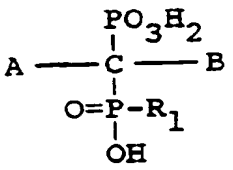
Y_s is H, CH_3, halogen, OC_{1-20} alkyl, for the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting cholesterol biosynthesis or inhibiting or treating atherosclerosis.

4. The use as defined in Claim 3 wherein the squalene synthetase inhibitor employed is
tetramethyl 1(p-chlorophenyl)methane-1-hydroxy 1,1-diphosphonate,
tetramethyl 2,2-dimethyl 2-(p-chlorophenoxy)ethane 1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate,
tetramethyl 1-[4(4'-chlorobenzoyl)phenyl]methane 1-hydroxy 1,1-diphosphonate,
dimethyl 1[(dimethoxyphosphinyl)p-chlorobenzyl]phosphate,
dimethyl [1(dimethoxyphosphinyl) 2,2-dimethyl 2-phenyl]-ethyl phosphate,
dimethyl [1(dimethoxyphosphinyl)2,2-dimethyl 2(p-chlorophenyl] ethyl phosphate,
tetramethyl 4-phenylbutylidene, 1,1-diphosphonate.

5. Use of a methylene phosphonoalkyl-phosphinate protein-prenyl transferase for the manufacture of a medicament for treating and/or preventing ras-related tumors by blocking the prenylation of ras oncogene products.

6. The use as defined in Claim 5 wherein the methylene phosphonoalkylphosphinate protein-prenyl transferase inhibitor includes at least one lipophilic group which is a group which contains at least 6 carbons and is required for strong enzyme inhibitor binding and inhibition of the enzyme squalene synthetase or other enzymes in the cholesterol biosynthetic pathway.

7. The use as defined in Claim 5 wherein the methylene phosphonoalkylphosphinate compound has the structure



(1)

wherein R_1 is selected from hydrogen, substituted alkyl and unsubstituted alkyl, and A and B are independent substituent moieties, wherein at least one of which is a lipophilic group which is a group which contains at least 6 carbons and is required for strong enzyme inhibitor binding and inhibition of the enzyme protein-prenyl transferase(s).

8. The use as defined in Claim 7 wherein A is a moiety selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; halogen; nitro; alkyl; heterocycle; aryl; heteroaryl; unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a substituent group; amino substituted with one substituent group, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a substituent group; amino substituted independently with one alkyl group and one substituent group; hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a substituent group; ether having a substituent group; thiol, and the thiol ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a substituent group; thioether having a substituent group, and the sulfoxide and sulfone derivative thereof; $-SO_3H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a substituent group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a substitutent group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups; aldehyde; ketone having a substituent group; carbamate, unsubstituted or substituted with one or two alkyl groups; pepetides having from about one to about 100 amino acid moieties; or the A and B moieties are covalently linked to form a ring having from 3 to about 7 atoms with from 0 to about 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus and oxygen, the ring being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more of the above substituents of A; or the A and B moieties are replaced by an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl moiety attached to the geminal carbon by a double bond; and

B is a moiety selected from hydrogen; halogen; unsubstituted and substituted lower alkyl; unsubstituted and substituted cycloalkyl having from about 3 to about 7 atoms in the ring; unsubstituted and substituted heterocycle having from about 3 to about 7 atoms in the ring; unsubstituted and substituted phenyl; hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group; thiol; unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group; amino substituted with one lower alkyl group, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group; amino substituted independently with two lower alkyl groups; $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a lower alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups.

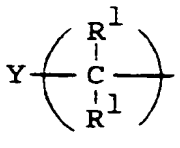
9. The use as defined in Claim 8 wherein alkyl is substituted with halogen, nitro, cyano, heterocycle, aryl, heteroaryl, unsubstituted amino, and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, amino substituted with one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group and the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl group, amino substituted independently with one alkyl group and one alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, hydroxy, and the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; ether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thiol, and the thiol ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group; thioether having an alkyl, heterocycle, aryl or heteroaryl group, and the sulfoxide and sulfone derivatives thereof, $-SO_3H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts therof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups, $-CO_2H$, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups, PO_3H_2, the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide

thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups, -(R^8)PO_2H (where R^8 is hydrogen or unsubstituted lower alkyl), the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of an alkyl group, the unsubstituted amide thereof, and the amide thereof substituted with one or two alkyl groups, aldehyde, ketone having an alkyl group, carbamate, unsubstituted or substituted with one or two alkyl groups, peptidyl, and combinations thereof.

10. The use as defined in Claim 9 wherein the term "heterocycle" refers to chemically-stable non-aromatic rings, including fused non-aromatic rings, having from about 5 to about 20 atoms, comprising at least one heteroatom selected from nitrogen, sulfur, phosphorus and oxygen.

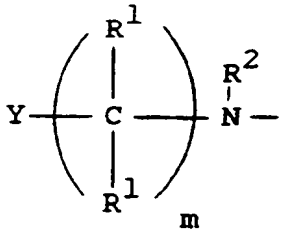
11. The use as defined in Claim 10 wherein the term "aryl" refers to chemically-stable aromatic rings, including fused aromatic rings, having from about 6 to about 20 carbon atoms.

12. The use as defined in Claim 8 wherein the A moieties include
(1) hydrogen;
(2) halogen;
(3) substituted and unsubstituted alkyl having the general structure:



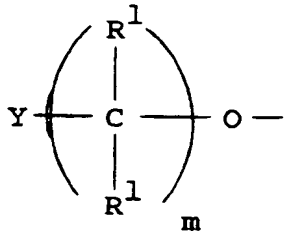
(2)

wherein n is an integer from 1 to about 10, preferably from 1 to about 5, more preferably n = 1 or 2, and most preferably n = 1; each R^1 is independently selected to achieve chemically-stable moieties from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, unsubstituted amino or the amido thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, amino substituted with one lower alkyl group or the amide thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, amino substituted independently with two lower alkyl groups, hydroxy or the ester thereof derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl group, -CO_2H or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof or the ester thereof derived from an alcohol of a lower alkyl group or the unsubstituted amide thereof or the amide thereof substituted with one or two lower alkyl groups, ether having a lower alkyl group, -PO_3H_2 or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and nitro, or two R^1's on the same carbon atom are =O or =NR^9 (where R^9 is lower alkyl or may be hydrogen when there is another nitrogen atom attached to the same carbon atom as the =NR^9 moiety), or two R^1's on adjacent carbon atoms may be replaced by an additional bond between the carbon atoms; or an R^1 on the first carbon atom (from the right side of structure (2) hereinabove) and B (see structure (1) hereinabove) may be replaced by an additional bond; and Y is a substituent of alkyl as defined hereinbefore; (for the sake of chemical stability of the compounds used in the present invention, R^1 cannot be such that there is a halogen and an oxygen or sulfur or nitrogen singly bonded to the same carbon atom or such that two of an oxygen or sulfur or nitrogen are singly bonded to the same carbon atom);
(4) Cycloalkyl having from about 4 to about 10 carbon atoms; more preferred are cycloalkyl having 5 or 6 carbon atoms;
(5) Heterocycle having 5 or 6 atoms in the ring; more preferred are heterocycles having one or two nitrogen atoms in the ring, more preferred still are heterocycles having one nitrogen atom in the ring; most preferred are unsubstituted or substituted piperidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl;
(6) unsubstituted and substituted phenyl; naphthyl;
(7) Unsubstituted and substituted 5 and 6 membered ring heteroaryls having one or two heteroatoms (especially nitrogen heteroatoms); most preferred is pyridinyl;
(8) amine-containing moiety having the general structure:



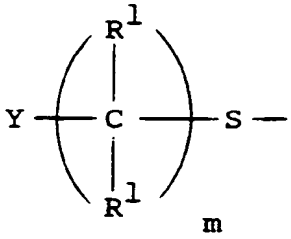
wherein m is an integer from 0 to about 10, preferably from 0 to about 5, more preferably 0 or 1, and most preferably m = 0; R^1 and Y are as described hereinbefore; and R^2 is hydrogen, lower alkyl or acyl derived from a carboxylic acid of a lower alkyl;

(9) oxygen-containing moiety having the general structure:



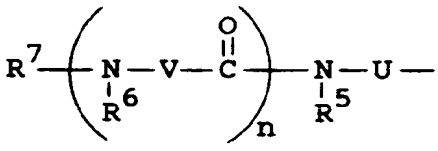
wherein m is an integer from 0 to about 10, preferably from 0 to about 5, more preferably 0 or 1, and most preferably m = 0; and R^1 and Y are as described hereinbefore; and

(10) sulfur-containing moiety having the general strucutre:

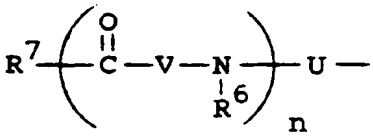


wherein m is an integer from 0 to about 10, preferably from 0 to about 5, more preferably 0 or 1, and most preferably m = 0; and R^1 and Y are as described hereinbefore;

(11) peptide-containing moiety having the general structure:



or



wherein n is an integer from 1 to about 100, preferably from 1 to about 6; R^5, each R^6 and R^7 are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl, preferably R^5, each R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen; U and each V are independently unsubstituted or substituted lower alkyl (substituted such that moiety is chemically-stable), or R^5 and U or each R^6 and V, together with the included nitrogen atom to which they are bound, may form a five- or six-membered ring which is unsubstituted or substituted; or U may be nil; preferably U and each V or rings in which they are incorporated are moieties found in naturally-occurring amino acid moieties, i.e., lysine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, phenylalanine, arginine, histidine, methionine, alanine, aspartic acid, threonine, proline, glycine, serine, tyrosine, tryptophan, glutamine and cysteine.

European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 92 30 9185

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
E	EP-A-0 513 760 (E.R. SQUIBB & SONS, INC) 19 November 1992 * claims 1-3 *	3,4	A61K31/66
A	EP-A-0 409 181 (E.R. SQUIBB & SONS, INC.) 23 January 1992 * abstract *	1,2,5-12	
A	CELL vol. 65, no. 1, 1991, pages 1 - 4; JACKSON B. GIBBS: 'Ras C-Terminal processing enzymes- New Drug targets?' * page 3, right column - page 4, left column *	1,2,5-12	
A	MOL.CELL.BIOL. vol. 10, no. 11, 1990, pages 5945 - 5949; ROSALIND KIM ET AL.: 'Prenylation of mammalian ras protein in xenopus oocytes' * page 5945 *	1,2,5-12	
A	JOURNAL OF MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY vol. 31, no. 10, 1988, pages 1869 - 1871; SCOTT A. BILLER ET AL.: 'Isoprenoid (phosphinylmethyl)phosphonates as inhibitors of squalene synthetase' * the whole document *	1,2,5-12	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5) A61K
A	CELL vol. 62, 1990, pages 81 - 88; YUVAL REISS ET AL.: 'Inhibition of purified p21ras farnesyl:protein transferase by cys-aax tetrapeptides' * page 81, right column *	1,2,5-12	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH	17 DECEMBER 1992	TZSCHOPPE D. A.

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
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P : intermediate document

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E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons

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